

Select Committee on Sugar
And coffee planting
1816-17

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SUPPLEMENT, No. I.

DRAFT OF REPORT PROPOSED BY THE CHAIRMAN.

YOUR Committee have diligently applied themselves to the Inquiry entrusted to their charge. Conceiving that the circumstances of the East Indies, Mauritius, and West Indies, differed materially each from the other, Your Committee, with partial deviations from this rule, proceeded first to inquire into the condition of the Sugar Planting Interest in the East Indies, next into that of the Mauritius, then into the state of the British West Indies; and, after having diverged occasionally into inquiries into the operation of the Slave Trade Abolition Service, the possibility of obtaining African Immigrants, and sundry other matters connected more or less with the general subject before them, finally concluded their labours with an investigation of the Coffee Planting Interest in Ceylon.

Your Committee examined a great number of witnesses, merchants, planters, and practical men connected with Sugar and Coffee Planting in the Eastern and Western possessions of the British Crown. They first, however, examined Viscount Palmerston, in order to ascertain the exact position of Great Britain with regard to her treaties with foreign countries, and the extent of her obligations to continue the maintenance of the Slave Trade abolition service. They also examined several distinguished officers who at different times had been employed in the African Blockade service, together with other witnesses connected with the slave-holding countries, and practically acquainted with slavery in those countries, and with the present and former character of the Slave Trade.

BENGAL, MADRAS, PROVINCE WELLESLEY.

Beginning with Her Majesty's possessions in the East Indies, Your Committee take leave to call the deep consideration of The House to the great interests that India possesses in a large and profitable exportation of Sugar to this country. Your Committee would specially call your attention to the important evidence of the Chairman of the East India Company, where it will be seen, that he states that the remittances from India to England amount to 3,700,000 l. annually, on account of the political debt or tribute; and so far as he is able to estimate, the private tribute may be considered to amount to at least half a million more. It would seem that the principal mode of remittance in former times consisted of Cotton Manufactures, to the amount of three millions sterling, and the rest was made up in the export of Tea, of which the Company had a monopoly, to England. The remittances in the shape of Tea may still be considered to continue, through the means of opium exported to China; and the remittances made formerly through the Cotton Manufactures of India sent to England are now made chiefly in Indigo, in Sugar, and in Silk; and it appears by the evidence of the Chairman of the East India Company, that the year 1845, nearly one million and a half sterling consisted of Sugar, and at 1,700,000 l. sterling of Indigo. The Chairman of the East India Company, asked what the position of India would be if those means of remittance direct and in the shape of Bengal and Madras grown Sugars, together with other means of indirect remittance through Rice sold at the Mauritius to supply food for the cultivators of Sugar afterwards exported to England, were

Amount of public and private tribute from India to England.

Value of Sugar as a means of remitting tribute, and effect of withdrawal.

to be annihilated or very much diminished, answers: "It would strike off a million and a half at least. I should think you must either strike a million and a half off our tribute, or find some other means of remittance, which I am afraid would be extremely difficult to find. Indigo is our first article, and next to that Sugar; that is, if except opium, which operates indirectly, and produces just now, perhaps, as much as Indigo."

Former value of Indian fabrics as a remittance, and the importance of Sugar to supply the place.

The Chairman of the East India Company, being asked whether in former times India did not pay her tribute in a great measure through her manufactures, answers: "Yes; we had an export of about three millions sterling of cotton manufactures; and you have reversed the case now. India imports largely." And being asked if India has not looked forward to be compensated for this great loss by turning its attention to the cultivation of Sugar? He replies, "That is one of the principal articles, and one of the most promising, because we have a territory and population sufficient to produce Sugar to almost any given extent, if there be only a demand at remunerating prices."

Mr. Melvill confirms the opinion of the Chairman of the East India Company, saying: "I may state, generally, that every article of commerce which is produced in India, and is brought to Europe, is important to the remittance operations of the East India Company."

Colonel Sykes is asked if he can state to the Committee how the East India Company would make its remittances to this country if it were to lose the export of Sugar, to the extent of 1,600,000 *l.* or 1,700,000 *l.* a year, and answers: "I suppose there would be very serious difficulty attending it; but, nevertheless, before this amount of Sugar was raised, the Court contrived to get its money home. That was in the time of the former charter, when the Company were merchants; and they used to get it home through the medium of Tea."

Price at which Sugar can be exported from India.

Having thus established the almost vital importance to India of the continuance of the cultivation of Sugar in the Bengal and Madras presidencies, and in the Mauritius, both as means direct and indirect of remittance to England of the public and private tribute of India, Your Committee have considered the prospect of India being able to continue to export Sugar to this country at the present prices; and they regret to say that it appears to be clearly established that India cannot export Sugar to England in any quantity, at a lower price than from 22 *s.* to 23 *s.* per cwt. from Calcutta, and perhaps 20 *s.* from Madras. A statement has been put in by the East India Company of the average price at which the Company exported Sugars to England, at a period antecedent to the equalization of the East Indian and West Indian Sugar duties, from which it seems that in the absence of any competition whereby the price of Sugar in India might be considered to be artificially raised, the average price was 23 *s.* a cwt. at Calcutta. It may therefore be assumed that, though improved modes of transit may, in the course of time, cheapen the cost of bringing Sugar from the interior to Calcutta or to Madras, yet India will not, for many years at least, be enabled to export Sugar in any quantity to England, at a lower price than 22 *s.* or 23 *s.* per cwt. from Calcutta, and 20 *s.* from Madras; which, adding 9 *s.* or 10 *s.* for freight and charges to England, would require a price of from 29 *s.* to 33 *s.* a cwt. in this country, to enable India to maintain the cultivation of Sugar for export to England.

Price at which Sugar can be landed in England from India.

Decline of export of Indian fabrics to England.

Mr. Bagshaw, a Member of Your House, for many years connected with India, gave this statement from the "Friend of India" in evidence to Your Committee, adopting it as his own, and confirming it with his own practical knowledge: "In treating of the exports from this Presidency (Bengal), our first duty is to shed a tear over the grave of the now defunct trade in cotton piece goods, once the great source of wealth to India, and the envy of Europe. In the years of 1816-17 the value of the cotton goods imported into India from England, the produce of our steam machinery, was a little above 30,000 *l.* sterling. In the year 1842-43 the importation of Cotton Cloths and Twist had advanced to nearly two millions sterling; but exactly in proportion as the British article has been making progress in this market, has the Indian manufacture been losing ground in the markets of Europe. It is instructive to trace its steady unchecked progress down the inclined plane, as the following statement of the export will exhibit:—

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	£.
1816-17	1,659,438
1817-18	1,327,285
1818-19	1,152,738
1819-20	903,079
1820-21	854,076
1821-22	766,482
1822-23	800,943
1823-24	587,053
1824-25	601,755
1825-26	583,463
1826-27	394,844
1827-28	287,631
1828-29	222,316
1829-30	132,642
1830-31	85,728
1831-32	84,988
1832-33	82,289
1833-34	wanting.
1834-35	wanting.
1835-36	87,946
1836-37	74,597
1837-38	69,625
1838-39	53,012
1839-40	55,462
1840-41	46,464
1841-42	17,629
1842-43	16,961

From this table it appears that in the years 1816-17, the manufactures of India not only clothed the whole of that vast population, but exported 1,659,438*l.* worth of goods; and that, be it remembered, is without at all taking into account the quantity that was exported of goods from the Coromandel coast, which are considered of rather better quality. I have no doubt in my own mind that we should find that the extent of those was as great as of goods from Calcutta.

"304. The East Indies have lost the exportation of 1,659,438*l.*, in addition to their home market, which is superseded by upwards of four millions of cotton goods which are now exported to India:—Yes.

Total loss to India through the decline of the Indian manufactures.

"305. Making altogether very nearly six millions of value that India has lost in the cotton manufacture:—In 1846 the exports to India amounted to 4,253,796*l.*, and last year they decreased to 2,474,930*l.*; so that in contradistinction to what I have said with regard to the manufacturers of cotton goods, during the whole of this period they were prohibited, which was notoriously the fact, by duties of an exorbitant height, from sending their goods to this country. The people of India might wear British manufactures which were imported into India at a duty of 2½ per cent., but the manufacturers of India were entirely precluded from getting their goods into consumption here, by the prohibitory duty that was exacted. Then the 'Friend of India' goes on to say, 'We close this notice by a reference to the article of which the improved export has been the most decisive and manifest during the past eight years; we allude to that of Sugar. In 1835-36 the quantity exported to England amounted in value to 168,995*l.*; in the last year it had increased to 1,483,577*l.*; that is nearly one million and a half sterling in value. There has been no instance of such growth in any article of commerce at any previous period. There has been no development of the resources of India to be compared with this sudden increase. Last year we supplied England with one-fourth the Sugar she consumed; and there can be no doubt that India would in time be able to supply the whole of the home demand, if the prospects of the trade were not rendered so uncertain by the vacillation of the Ministry at home in regard to this staple article.' Since this notice was written the extra import of Sugar has been so great, that instead of being one-fourth, it now amounts to one-third."

Cause of the above decline.

Great increase and importance of the production of Sugar in India.

Being asked whether he considers a high price of Sugar necessary, in order to keep up an extended export of Sugar from the East Indies to this country,

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High prices are not beneficial to India, moderate prices would be.

Admission of slave sugar would reduce this moderate price, and ultimately would create a monopoly of slave sugar.

he answers: "I am not one of those who consider that high prices would be at all calculated to be a benefit to India. I have taken it therefore at nine rupees, which is about 22 s., for remarkably good Sugars, and I believe we could produce them at that rate." Being asked if he means 22s. at Calcutta, he replies: "Yes; but if, on the contrary, we are to be interfered with by Slave-grown Sugar, and are to be sacrificed for it, there will be a monopoly unquestionably of Slave-grown Sugars in the market; there can be no doubt about it, excepting so far as we in India shall be able to compete against it, in which case prices must go very high."

Mr. Bagshaw, M.P. also handed in the following table, showing the decrease of exports of British manufactures to Calcutta during the last six months of 1847:—

	1 June to 30 Nov. 1845.	30 Nov. 1845 to 31 May 1846.	31 May to 30 Nov. 1846.	30 Nov. 1846 to 31 May 1847.	31 May to 30 Nov. 1847.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Plain Cottons - -	692,782	860,967	630,615	689,324	414,245
Printed ditto - -	48,134	68,650	37,331	61,295	23,425
Coloured ditto - -	93,203	116,232	69,278	69,591	61,696
Cotton Twist - -	251,839	497,612	270,526	298,354	127,954
Woollens - -	29,665	35,892	26,115	29,973	23,881
TOTAL - - £.	1,115,623	1,597,358	1,033,865	1,148,537	651,201

Sir George Larpent incidentally, in giving his evidence upon the Mauritius, stated that there had been a steady demand and a steady price for a series of years of Sugar in Mofussil and Calcutta, at 24 s. a cwt.

"India has such capabilities, that if we were to introduce improved modes of conveyance, alterations in the assessment of the land, and various circumstances connected with India, that would improve India, I believe it to be the country, of all others, the most likely to produce inexhaustible quantities of Sugar; but under the existing circumstances, placed as we are, and, as the hon. Member knows, the mode of conveyance being so tardy and expensive an item that enters so largely into the cost of almost every Indian production, we are not in a situation to avail ourselves of the extraordinary power which India possesses; but that it has those powers lying dormant now I have not the least doubt: it only requires skill and capital and general improvements to call them forth, and I believe when they are called forth, India probably will be one of the chief countries for producing tropical productions of any in the world."

Dhobah Company &c
Calcutta.

Mr. Kemshead, the Chairman of the Dhobah East India Company, by far the largest sugar manufacturing concern in the world, producing at the rate of 7,000 tons a year, is examined, and he gives evidence that, in 1841, the price being 31 s. 6 d. per cwt. in London, the Company made a profit; that in 1843, the sale price being again 31 s. 8 d., they made a profit. "In 1844 the price got down very low; our average was only 25 s. 8 d., when we made a loss." He thinks that loss was from 4,000 l. to 5,000 l. Speaking of 1847, he says: "The loss in the present instance is about 10 l. a ton, the produce being 7,000 tons: we estimate the loss at 70,000 l." He is asked if the Company have given up their operations? and he answers: "We have suspended them for a time, finding the enormous loss, and the impossibility of competing with Slave-grown Sugar: we have suffered quite enough in losses which we have already sustained, which have more than swept away all the profits of previous years." He adds: "If we had stopped working two years ago we should have been gainers, but the two last years have completely taken away all those profits."

Mr. Ellis, engaged in a Sugar Factory at Cuddalore, nine years a resident at, and only just returned from Madras, a gentleman whose evidence was held to be of such essential importance, that Your Committee re-opened the East India part of the case to examine this Witness; gave most valuable evidence to Your Committee.

Cost of producing
Sugar at Madras.

This gentleman proved that the cost of production of the Sugar obtained at his

his manufactory, was 40 rupees a candy of 500 lbs., equal to 20*l.* sterling a ton; that this Sugar sold last February at 36*l.* to 42*l.* a ton, averaging thus 39*l.* long price; deducting 14*l.* duty, and ordinary freights and charges, estimated at 7*l.* (lately these had been 10*l.* per ton), his Sugars would have lost him 3*l.* per ton.

Asked if there are any difficulties which he could suggest to the Committee, the removal of which might tend to increase the production of Sugar at Madras; he says, "He is not aware of anything within the power of the Government of this country at present, excepting the improvement of roads; probably good roads would have the most immediate effect on the price."

Asked if the cultivation of Sugar has been of much benefit to the Presidency of Madras; he answers, "Very great." "Has it improved the condition of the ryots?—In some places, certainly, to my own knowledge it has done so."

Asked if the exportation of Sugar or Rice be the more advantageous to Madras; he answers, "Sugar, undoubtedly."

Mr. Ellis states, that the average wages of an able-bodied man rules throughout the Madras Presidency about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* to 2 *d.* per diem; the party employing him neither fining him in food, or taking care of him when he is sick.

Your Committee beg leave to call especial attention to the following questions and answers of Mr. Ellis, and to bear them hereafter in mind when considering the case of the Mauritius:—

"15936. The Madras presidency benefits very largely from its export of rice to the Mauritius, does it not?—It has of late exported rice to some extent to the Mauritius, but mainly in connexion with the export of coolies.

"15937. I suppose it would be a great blow to the poor people, the ryots and coolies of Madras, if the cultivation of sugar in the Mauritius were to cease, would it not?—Yes, so far as the exportation of rice is concerned.

"15938. And this emigration of coolies affords a great source of money-making to those people, does it not?—*It did; but in the time of Lord Ellenborough's government we were prevented from exporting coolies from Madras, and that was a great blow to our trade with the Mauritius; but lately permission has been given again for the export of coolies from that presidency to the Mauritius, though I am not sure that it has yet been acted upon, for they had not appointed a protector when I left Madras, in August last.*"

"15941. But the cessation of that export of emigrants to the Mauritius was felt as a great blow?—Undoubtedly it was.

"15942. Is not the whole of India more thickly peopled than there is employment to be found for them?—There are always people found who are ready for increased wages to emigrate.

"15943. *In point of fact, the emigration to the Mauritius was felt to be a great blessing to them?—Indeed it was; it relieved a number of the districts.*"

"15953. If the French were to get the Mauritius again it would be a terrible thorn in the side of our East Indian trade?—*I presume we should be obliged to take possession of it at any cost.*

"15954. Mr. Moffatt.] The French have possession of the Isle of Bourbon?—Yes; there is no port there.

"15955. Chairman.] They have nothing but an open roadstead?—No."

Mr. Alexander, an East India merchant engaged in the Sugar business in Bengal, connected with India for 30 years, and a resident there for 23 years, states that the best Benares Sugars, upon an average, are worth nine rupees and two annas per maund of 80 lbs., equal to about 24 *s.* 3 *d.* a cwt., but he has known them as low as about 23*s.* Asked, if at the ordinary rate of five guineas a ton freight, in order to square themselves as merchants in the London market, they must be able to purchase Sugar for the future at the price of 15*s.* 3*d.* in Calcutta, instead of 24*s.* 6*d.*, which he paid last year; he answers, It must be 20 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. cheaper for the first quality, 21 per cent. for the second, and 27 per cent. for the third: he must get that in some shape or other to square him. Being asked if he must not buy Sugars 5*s.* a cwt. cheaper than he has ever known it sold in Calcutta since the year 1836, he answers: "My opinion is, that it will not be sold at that rate; there is such a large internal demand arising in the west of India, that I do not think the merchant will get it at that rate; therefore, I think, we shall be precluded from using Sugar as a means of remittance to a great extent."

Mr. Alexander, whose evidence Your Committee would recommend to the

Cultivation of Sugar of great advantage to Madras presidency, and to the ryots, more so than rice.

Wages of labourer at Madras.

Importance to Madras of coolie emigration and rice trade to Mauritius.

Average price of best Benares Sugar in Bengal.

This Sugar will not be sold at rates to pay for shipment with present prices in England, on account of the large demand in the west of India.

attentive consideration of The House, goes on to say at a subsequent part of his evidence, "To return to the trade with Bengal, I have before me a list of the principal articles of export for the years 1845-46, from Calcutta, with their price; Indigo, Sugar, Rice, and so on, and the entire quantity of those principal articles will amount to about five millions sterling; and these are the items most important to the English trade. Sugar will amount for that year to about 67,000 tons, at a value of 1,800,000*l.*, which would provide freight for between 180 and 200 vessels. There were that year, went directly from England to Calcutta, and which were therefore vessels which required to be loaded from Calcutta, 267 vessels, with a tonnage of 136,575 tons; of those vessels, about 200 had their dead weight from Sugar alone. With respect also to another great article, which is Raw Silk, the introduction of China Silk on a very increased scale, has so entirely reduced the price of Bengal Raw Silk in England, that I consider it is almost thrown out as a means of remittance. It was this year 782,000*l.*, so that that and the Sugar together form a full half of the value of the articles which we have for carrying on our trade as a means of remittance."

Mr. Hardman, a sugar manufacturer, engaged at Cossipore, about four miles to the northward of Calcutta, is asked if he conceives that his trade will be seriously interfered with by the absence of protection? He answers, "Very seriously indeed." He is asked what he conceives its effect will be? His answer is, "The effect will be to prevent the cultivation of all land for Sugar by Europeans in India." He is asked, "Have you taken measures to contract your establishment upon the prospect of the equalization of duties in 1851." He replies, "Government have contracted us; we cannot be contracted any further; we shall not be able to continue our manufacture in consequence of the classification of duties. That would prevent us from carrying on the business; the late changes have been such, as I said before, as absolutely to ruin us." "If we take the Sugars which are produced by the natives themselves, in their crude state, badly cultivated and badly prepared, we may make Sugars to compete with Sugars from any part of the world. But in what sort of condition do we leave the natives of India; are we improving their condition?—Certainly not; but we are leaving them in a worse condition than that of the most cruelly used slave of Cuba or the Brazils." He is asked, "What do you mean by leaving them in a worse state than the most cruelly used slave of Cuba and Brazils?—I refer to their state of degradation, both moral and physical." "In your opinion native-grown Sugar is cheaper than European-grown Sugar?—Up to the present time it is so, and it will necessarily be for some time to come. Eventually, I believe, the European grower would produce his Sugar cheaper than the native." "You believe the price of Sugar grown by the native would be so low that he could hardly subsist?—Certainly; he has a mere subsistence now."

Mr. Hardman having further stated, at answers 752, 753, 755, that the classification of duties and uncertainty as to the scale at which the Sugars would be assessed had operated to his ruin, the occasions of dispute with the Customs' authorities having been numberless, Mr. Dowding, the Surveyor-general of the Customs, was called, and having been asked "Was an opinion been expressed by the officers that the mode of collecting the duty is not satisfactory?" he stated; "It has never been disguised that it is an unsatisfactory mode; because it is not a question of fact, it is in a great degree a matter of opinion; but taking all these things into consideration, it is astonishing how very few differences have existed." Being asked, "Are you aware what, according to Act of Parliament, constitutes the difference in the quality of different Sugars under this classification law?" he stated, "I apprehend I am." Being asked, "How do you define them?" He described, "The elements of Sugars are saccharine matters, grain and colour; they constitute the term 'quality.'" Upon being asked, "When you get a sample of Sugar, have you no satisfactory means of ascertaining the quantity of saccharine matter in it?" He replied, "Certainly not." Being asked, "Therefore, as far as regards the saccharine property of the Sugar, it is not a satisfactory test?" He said, "It is not." Being asked, "The grain and colour you judge of by the eye?" He stated, "Yes." When asked, "Is the granulation regulated by the moisture of the Sugar?" He said, "Not exactly the moisture. I can hardly explain how we come to the decision; it is by feeling it and looking

Value and quality of
Sugar shipped during
1845, 1846.

Tonnage employed in
shipping Sugar from
India.

Loss of protection will
check cultivation by
Europeans in India.

Injury caused by the
classification of duties.

The natives would suffer
by their defective
produce being brought
into competition with
other Sugar.

The European would
eventually grow Sugar
cheaper than the native.

The Surveyor of the
Customs' opinion on
the classification duties.

The elements constituting
quality of Sugar
according to the Act
of Parliament.

ing at it." He is asked, "It is a sort of general impression that is obtained by inspecting the Sugar?" He replied, "Yes; from the experience we have had upon the subject." He is asked, "Have you no distinct rule?" He said, "Certainly not, except by comparison with the standard." "Therefore it is possible one officer might determine from his general impression, differently from what another officer might determine?—I have just admitted that fact in the case alluded to." "You also admit, that with a different state of atmosphere the same officer might come to a different conclusion at different times?—It would make a difference in the colour of the Sugar."

Difference of the state of the atmosphere might cause a different assessment of the same Sugar.

Mr. Crooke, a practical planter at Tirhoot, in the district of Bahar, 1,000 miles by water above Calcutta, puts even a higher price than this, as that at which only the exportation of Sugar from Bengal will prosper. He says his agent writes him, alluding to fine Sugar, "Many Zemindars are talking of giving up growing Sugar cane, as they say it does not pay at those low prices." Asked what he means by those prices; he says, "Nine rupees in Calcutta is the highest price, and nine rupees at 2*s.* will give the native in Calcutta 24*s.* 5½*d.* a cwt." He goes on to say that he thinks he could prove that Sugar at 30*s.* to 32*s.* will not pay the Zemindars. Mr. Crooke puts in some statements relative to the trade of Calcutta, showing how much the prosperity of British manufactures, and of their export trade to Calcutta, responds to the prosperity of the export of the Sugar Trade, that Your Committee venture to embody them in this Report.

Mr. Crooke's return of the price at which Sugar can be exported from Calcutta.

TRADE between Calcutta and Great Britain.

IMPORTS to CALCUTTA from GREAT BRITAIN, reduced to Pounds Sterling.			EXPORTS from CALCUTTA to GREAT BRITAIN, reduced to Pounds Sterling.		Quantity of Sugar Exported from Calcutta to Great Britain, commencing 1835-36, ending 1846-47; Years calculated, 1st May to 30th April.	
YEARS.	Value of Merchandize.	Treasure.	Value of Merchandize.	Treasure.		REMARKS.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	Tons.	
1834-35	1,387,247	7,238	1,388,138	4,913	-	-- In 1836 the Duty on East and West India Sugar was equalized.
1835-36	1,609,541	423	1,793,005	1,283	7,184	
1836-37	2,220,470	-	2,837,636	360	13,403	
1837-38	2,052,832	6,650	2,701,357	17,861	21,888	-- In 1839-40 it was ascertained that a partial failure of the West India crop was certain to result; the high prices of Sugar in Great Britain in 1840 caused great extra cultivation in India, which has in a great measure accounted for the large export from Calcutta since. -- The large quantity sent forward in 1845-46 and the known great yield of the crop of 1846-47, tends to prove that had the duties remained unaltered it was probable that 100,000 tons might have been shipped to Great Britain in 1846-47.
1838-39	-	-	-	-	26,883	
1839-40	2,596,248	331,125	4,096,598	8	26,913	
1840-41	3,775,704	81,586	5,075,243	-	63,084	
1841-42	3,306,912	-	4,746,933	-	53,357	
1842-43	3,080,915	337,888	4,043,807	2,600	57,789	
1843-44	3,495,072	95,598	5,596,068	760	56,441	
1844-45	4,862,509	9,590	5,368,679	2,250	55,763	
1845-46	4,151,229	8,645	5,161,353	2,210	67,270	
1846-47	4,241,072	55,091	4,459,495	-	61,910	
Twelve Years	-	-	-	Tons	511,885	
Average of Twelve Years	-	-	-	"	42,657	
Average of First Five Years	-	-	-	"	19,254	
Average of Last Seven Years	-	-	-	"	59,373	

Is the result of that statement that the importations of Sugar from British India are paid for in British manufactures?—They are more than paid for. And the exports of British manufactures to India are dependent upon the importations from India?—No doubt of it. Not of Sugar exclusively?—Not of Sugar exclusively, but the Sugar Trade is becoming more important to India every day. Will you state what portion of the importation from Bengal consists of Sugar; is not the value of the Sugar exported from India one-third of the whole exportations?—In 1846-47, Calcutta exported to Great Britain 4,459,422*l.* value of produce; there was no treasure shipped that year; the value of Sugar sent from Calcutta was 1,650,119*l.*; indigo ranked next, 1,176,168*l.*; silk, 546,193*l.*; silk piece goods, 315,414*l.*; rice, 175,761*l.*; salt-petre, 164,982*l.*; hides and skins, 134,737*l.*; rum, 24,927*l.*; hemp jute, 27,425*l.*; molasses,

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molasses, 14,984*l.*; other articles, 229,716*l.*; declared value in Calcutta; the real value at the time. They are not over valued, because some of the articles pay duty. Sugar stood much the highest.

[The Witness handed in the following statement of Imports and Exports:]

IMPORTS into Calcutta from Great Britain, 1834-1835, and 1846-1847.

DESCRIPTION.	1834-35.		1846-47.		Increase.	Decrease.
	Quantity.	Value in	Quantity.	Value in		
		Pounds Sterling.		Pounds Sterling.		
		£. s. d.		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Cotton Piece Goods - - - <i>ps.</i>	1,231,649	446,479 8 -	6,238,022	2,017,270 8 -	1,570,701 - -	
Ditto - ditto - - - <i>doz.</i>	88,025		65,849			
Cotton Yarn - - - <i>lbs.</i>	3,202,067	282,908 10 -	17,522,262	1,069,804 12 -	780,056 2 -	
Woollens - - - -	-	179,751 18 -	-	49,411 16 -	-	130,340 2 -
Silk and Mixed Goods - - -	-	18,484 6 -	-	24,057 8 -	26,473 2 -	
Haberdashery and Millinery - -	-	23,386 - -	-	91,518 6 -	68,132 6 -	
Coals - - - - <i>mds.</i>	96,580	2,658 - -	-	41,815 18 -	39,157 18 -	
Salt - - - -	-	-	352,835	35,283 10 -	35,283 10 -	
Metals and Metal Manufactures -	-	297,175 8 -	-	424,426 - -	127,250 12 -	
Other Articles - - - -	-	317,038 10 -	-	306,525 - -	149,486 10 -	

Increase, 1846-47, Company's Rupees, 2,66,66,700; in Sterling, 2,000,000 *l.* 18 *s.*, or 160 per cent.

EXPORTS from Calcutta to Great Britain, 1834-35, and 1846-47.

DESCRIPTION.	1834-35.		1846-47.		Increase.	Decrease.
	Quantity.	Value in	Quantity.	Value in		
		Pounds Sterling.		Pounds Sterling.		
		£. s. d.		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Sugar - - - - <i>mds.</i>	154,590	191,395 4 -	1,685,336	1,650,119 16 -	1,518,124 12 -	
Indigo - - - -	52,763	562,810 14 -	73,747	1,176,168 16 -	613,358 2 -	
Silk - - - -	5,345	101,097 2 -	13,064	546,193 4 -	444,196 2 -	
Silk Piece goods - - - <i>ps.</i>	357,034	238,537 10 -	516,330	314,414 14 -	75,877 4 -	
Rice - - - - <i>mds.</i>	309,618	72,751 8 -	1,079,825	175,751 12 -	103,000 4 -	
Sulphure - - - -	232,722	127,102 10 -	287,062	164,082 2 -	37,879 12 -	
Hides and Skins - - - <i>No.</i>	686,258	57,530 8 -	1,318,576	134,737 12 -	77,207 4 -	
Rum - - - - <i>gals.</i>	20,397	2,175 14 -	661,152	24,927 12 -	22,751 18 -	
Hemp Jute - - - - <i>mds.</i>	45,254	10,877 4 -	241,418	27,425 14 -	16,548 10 -	
Molasses - - - -	306	55 8 -	121,231	14,984 12 -	14,920 4 -	
Other Articles - - - -	-	220,642 14 -	-	229,716 8 -	9,073 14 -	

Increase, 1846-47, Company's Rupees, 2,35,20,463, or Sterling, £. 2,932,946 6 *s.*, or 181 per cent.

Mr. Crooke, who also to a great extent confirms the evidence, and who calculates that at present prices the exportation of Sugar from Bengal to Great Britain will be reduced from 60,000 to 20,000 tons, reckons that an acre of land in India upon an average gives four cwt. of Sugar. That it would thus take 200,000 acres in India to give 40,000 tons of Sugar; and he calculates that from 400,000 to 600,000 people would be constantly employed in the production of this quantity of Sugar.

Mr. Wray, who having previously been nearly 10 years a planter in Jamaica, was afterwards upwards of three years a planter in Bengal, and subsequently a planter in Province Wellesley, gives a very curious history of the character of the native cultivation of Sugar in the East Indies. He informs the Committee, that upon an average, under native cultivation, about 800 lbs. of goor, equal to 400 lb. of Sugar, less than four cwt., are produced upon an acre, whilst upon an average he reckons that each cultivator would not occupy above a quarter of an acre; so that in the business of producing no more than 80,000 tons of Sugar in Bengal, it would seem that not fewer than 1,680,000 natives would be employed and interested. And this evidence was to a great extent confirmed by Mr. Crooke.

Mr. Wray also gave a most interesting history of his sugar planting in Province Wellesley, situated in the Straits of Malacca. There, with free labour, he succeeded in producing sugar at 13 *s.* per cwt. the first year, and at 8 *s.* the cwt. the second year; the plantations cultivated under the contract system by Chinese. Mr. Wray represents these Chinese as superior, and in all ways preferable to any class of plantation labourers he ever met with, enslaved or free.

Interest of native population in cultivation of Sugar.

Produce of Sugar per acre in India.

Number of people employed in Sugar cultivation in India.

Cost of producing Sugar in Province Wellesley.

free. Their industry, their energy, their skill in Sugar cultivation, and their endurance, being equalled only by their frugality, parsimony, and contentment with hard living. They come and go at their own cost, or, more properly speaking, on credit, either in the country junks or else upon the decks of European homeward-bound Chinamen; the captains of the European ships trusting before landing them that contractors will come off and pay the immigrants' passage monies, on condition of receiving their services on the Sugar plantations until they should have worked out these advances.

Chinese labourers.
Contract System.

Mr. Wray, in the flattering picture he drew of Sugar cultivation in the Straits of Malacca, was able to boast that so favoured a spot as a field for free-labour cultivation did not exist in the world.

With a climate and soil equal to that of Cuba, Demerara, or Trinidad, they are exempted alike from the earthquakes and hurricanes which from time to time annihilate the prospects of the West India planters; are free from the dry winds, the droughts, the white ants, the jackalls, and the elephants, which in turn harass the planter in the north-western provinces of Bengal; whilst, if labour be not nominally so cheap as on the continent of India, the Chinaman is worth five Indian coolies; he comes in the prime and vigour of manhood, at his own expense, and he goes in the same way, bringing neither wife nor family with him, and leaving no incumbrance on the planter behind him; he breaks not the heart of the planter by discontinuous labour in crop season; he has no provision ground to tempt him to play truant in showery weather, when the weeds with a rank growth would smother the canes; sharing the proceeds of the Sugar, when manufactured, with his employer, he toils early and late, and every day, himself a heathen, undisturbed by any reverence for Christian or Jewish Sabbath.

Soil of Province of
lesley
Absence of injurious
insects and animals.
Efficient labour.

The crop secured and grown upon the seaboard, there is no length of 1,000 miles of river carriage, or distant land carriage, as in India and some of the British West Indies, to mulct the profits of the planter: there are no immigration or other taxes for civil, ecclesiastical, police, or military establishments, to fetter the unrestricted freedom of his trade. Uninterfered with by busy-body meddling governments, and yet protected at others' expense: untaxed and untithed, he carries a feather weight in the race of competition, and laughs at his British rivals, cramped by restrictive labour laws, and weighed down by taxation varying between 4*l.* and 6*l.* per ton on their produce, who are nevertheless expected to compete with the lightly-taxed slave labour of Brazil and of Cuba.

Short carriage of pro-
duce, no expensive in-
stitutions.

Mr. Crooke gave evidence, afterwards confirmed by Mr. Prideaux, that an Excise duty, with all its necessary accompaniments of restrictive regulations, existed in the East Indies upon distillers of rum, as well as other distillers, analogous in many respects, and in all as onerous as the restrictions upon the distillers in this country, aggravated in one material point, inasmuch as not only the restrictions and injurious supervision of the Excise is set over the distiller in India, but the unfortunate victim is made as it were to carry his own cross and to pay the cost of the "Darogah," or excise officer, 15 rupees a month, equal to the wages of 12 coolies. The effect of those restrictions appears to be almost a virtual prohibition of the manufacture of rum in the East Indies; the molasses, instead of being distilled into rum, being usually allowed to flow into the gutters. This would seem to be the only evil in the East Indies which admits of a cure. As regards labour, the East Indians certainly cannot complain that they have been deprived of their property in slaves, neither can they complain that labour is not sufficiently cheap. It appears, by the evidence of Mr. Crooke, that the wages of the Hindoo do not exceed five farthings a day; and it also appears, that in his own country the coolie works not two or three days a week, as does the creole in the West Indies, but every day of the week, irrespective of Sundays.

Excise on
India.

Your Committee now come to another consideration of the question. Out of 22,000,000 *l.* sterling of revenue raised from the people of India, about 12 millions appear to be raised from the land revenues; whilst it seems from the evidence of Colonel Sykes, together with that of Mr. Ellis, that the average land tax in Bengal varies from 4*s.* to 5*s.* 6*d.* an acre, whilst in Madras, upon lands capable of bearing Sugar, the tax amounts to 18*s.*; but when it is taken into consideration that on those lands of which Mr. Ellis was speaking, each acre produced about 18 cwt. of Sugar, whilst the lands in Bengal produce barely four cwt. of Sugar, it may be taken that 1*l.* per ton of Sugar is a fair

Importance of Sugar
to the land and customs
revenue of India.

Effect on India of a depression of the prices of Sugar.

average of the tax derived from the cultivation of Sugar by the East India Company. Thus it would seem that if the India Company should lose the cultivation of Sugar to the amount of 40,000 or 60,000 tons a year, her annual revenue would suffer in the land tax to something like the same number of figures in sterling pounds. It has already been shown that for every pound in value of Sugar so exported to England, India takes back a pound sterling, at least, in value of British manufactures. The Customs duties of India being from three to five per cent. on British manufactures, it would result that if India should lose the exportation of Sugar to the value of 1,200,000 *l.* a year, which would be two-thirds of the present exports, she would, in like manner, diminish her exportation to the extent of an equal sum, upon which the Company's revenues would lose, say at four per cent., between 40,000 *l.* and 50,000 *l.* a year more. The conclusion from all this would seem to be, that India would suffer in many ways from a continued depression in the prices of Sugar, unless the price of Sugar in this country can be maintained above 30 *s.* a cwt.: first, she would be seriously hampered in her means of remitting her public and private tribute to England; secondly, she would necessarily lose largely in her land as well as in her Customs revenue; thirdly, a severe blow will be struck at many hundreds and thousands of natives interested in the cultivation of Sugar. And against those calamities there appears to be no remedy, unless, so far as the manufacture of rum is concerned, the East India Company were to see the sound policy of removing the restrictions which to so large an extent prohibit the carrying on of a manufacture which apparently might be extended to almost any amount, except in a protective duty of something like 10 *s.* a cwt. against Slave-grown Sugar.

On the other hand, it should be kept in view that, as clothing is less a necessary of life to an Indian than Sugar has now become to ourselves; if you take away India's market for her Sugars, you in the same ratio, or in a greater ratio, destroy England's market for her manufactured goods.

THE MAURITIUS.

Concurring in opinion with the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, who has admitted in his evidence before Your Committee "THAT SO IMPORTANT A COLONY CAN NEVER BE NEGLECTED WITH IMPUNITY" by the mother country, Your Committee are disposed to think that they will not be travelling out of their proper province when, in reviewing the position of the Mauritius, they bring before the consideration of The House the peculiar circumstances of that once flourishing and powerful colony. In the year 1783 the Isles of France and Bourbon, under great indulgences granted by the French government, had already acquired considerable importance as the emporium of the French trade with the East Indies and China, when a monopoly of those trades was granted to the French East India Company. The vessels belonging to those isles enjoyed the right to navigate the Indian Ocean, to the exclusion of all other French vessels. By this measure the Isle of France became a vast entrepôt between Europe and Asia, with great advantages to the colonists. The Revolution of 1789 and its consequences were watched with anxiety by the colonists; but so far from following the example of the mother country, every exertion was made to prevent the island becoming a prey to the Revolution; and in June 1796, when the commissaires of the French Republic arrived with orders for the immediate emancipation of the slaves, the inhabitants, warned by the fate of their fellow-colonists of St. Domingo, arrested them at the Government House, and insisted upon their immediate return to France. They were shortly afterwards forced to return to Europe, together with the troops of the Republic, about 800 strong. The island authorities maintained a sort of independent government until the 26th of September 1803, when Napoleon, by Admiral Linois' squadron, brought the colony under the power of his government, dissolving the Colonial Assembly, which had existed for the previous 10 years; but, in the meanwhile, the colony maintaining this semi-independence of France, held at bay the power of Great Britain, and waged the most destructive warfare against her East Indian commerce. The Earl of Morington, afterwards Marquis of Wellesley, addressing Vice-Admiral Rainier, urging the speedy capture of the Isle of France, presses upon

State of the Mauritius when belonging to France.

See "Mauritius Almanack."

Importance attached to the Mauritius by the Marquis of Wellesley.

upon him "the injury which the trade and commerce of India have sustained from the activity and boldness with which the inhabitants of the Isle of France have employed the limited resources of the island in the prosecution of hostilities during the present war, under every disadvantage of internal discord and of the neglect, if not the positive enmity, of France. In the midst of these difficulties and embarrassments, the naval force of the French islands has carried into Port Louis British property to the amount of three millions sterling since the commencement of the present war." At a later period, after the peace of Amiens, which had frustrated an expedition intended by the Marquis of Wellesley to be carried on under the direction of General Baird as Commander-in-Chief, and the present Duke of Wellington as second in command, he writes to Lord Castlereagh in these words: "While the Cape of Good Hope and Isle of France shall remain in the hands of France the security of this empire in war must rest upon the extent and condition of the naval and military forces in India, and a constant and diligent observation of the enemy's motions: we shall therefore be subjected to a heavy expense in supporting a separate marine for these objects, for the protection of the country trade and Company's ships. During the late war the captures made in India by privateers fitted out in the Isle of France are estimated at four millions sterling."

See Marquis of Wellesley's Despatches.

The war with England, suspended by the peace of Amiens, having been recommenced with redoubled vigour and ability, the great success of the colonial cruisers proved so agreeable to Napoleon, that he decreed the admission into France, duty free, of all the produce of Mauritius*.

Importance attached to the Mauritius by Napoleon.

It was not till November 1810, that Generals Keating and Abercrombie, Commodore Rowley, and Vice-Admiral Bertie, with 20 ships of war, besides 50 East Indiamen and transports, and 14,000 infantry, attended by a small proportion of cavalry, and a formidable train of light and heavy artillery, succeeded in the capture of the Mauritius. Previous, however, to her subjugation, Mr. Farquhar, the Governor of Bourbon, antecedently captured, had issued proclamations and circulated them in the Isle of France, inviting the inhabitants to surrender to British dominion, upon the promise that the private property of the inhabitants should be strictly respected, and inviting them to an alliance with England, under the promise that "the English are come to establish a firm and perpetual friendship with the inhabitants of the Isle of France, who will have the means of disposing of their merchandize on the most favourable terms, and who will enjoy all the commercial advantages of the other subjects of His Majesty." Your Committee wish to call the attention of the House of Commons to the manner in which those promises were fulfilled by Great Britain: whilst its external commerce

Importance attached to the possession of the Mauritius by England.

British proclamation to induce the Mauritius to surrender.

* DÉCRET IMPÉRIAL relatif aux Marchandises Coloniales venant des Colonies qui sont au pouvoir de la France.

Au Palais de Fontainebleau, le 1^{er} Novembre 1810.
Napoléon, Empereur des Français. &c. &c.

Nous avons décrété et decretons ce qui suit:—

Art. 1^{er}. Toutes marchandises coloniales soumises au tarif réglé par notre Décret du 5 Août 1810, qui viendroient de l'Île de France, de Batavia, et des autres colonies en expédiées pour la France, sont supprimées.

Art. 2. Les droits d'entrée, de consommation, et tous autres, perçus en France sur les denrées et productions desdites colonies, pour entrée et consommation en France, sont supprimés.

Loi portant Suppression des Droits sur les Denrées et Productions des Colonies Françaises.

Du 11 Sept. 1793.

Art. 1^{er}. Les droits d'octroi de sortie et sous toute dénomination quelconque perçus dans les Colonies Françaises de l'Amérique, l'Île de France, Bourbon, et Mosambique, sur les denrées et productions des cru et sol desdites colonies au notre pouvoir, des Indes Orientales et Occidentales, seront exemptés de tout droit de douanes, si elle viennent directement dans nos ports sur les bâtimens Français ou Hollandais.

2. Les marchandises coloniales, arrivant des mêmes colonies, ne paieront que le quart du droit fixé par le dit Décret du 5 Août, si elles viennent directement sur les bâtimens Américains.

4. Le présent Décret aura un effet retroactif, et recevra son exécution comme s'il avoit été rendu le 5 Août 1810.

Le Ministre Secrétaire d'Etat.

(signé) *Napoleon.*

(signé) *H. B. Duc de Bassano.*

commerce was almost extinguished, its Cotton, Indigo, and Coffee cultivation fell off, and have since been entirely extinguished, under the competition with the British Colonies in the West Indies, the Cotton of the United States, and the Indigo of the East Indies; the only compensation it got was in the increase of Clove and Sugar cultivation. Instead of the promise being maintained "that they should have the means of disposing of their merchandize on the most favourable terms, and should enjoy all the commercial advantages of the other subjects of His Majesty," till the year 1825 their Sugars were virtually excluded from the British market by a distinctive duty of 10 s. a cwt.

Sir Robert Farquhar's opinion of the Mauritius.

Speaking of the Mauritius, Sir Robert Farquhar, 13 years Governor of the Colony, on the 21st of March 1825 declared in the House of Commons that, "when brought forward it would be found to be the hardest and most cruel case that had ever been submitted to the House of Commons, and one that called for immediate relief."—"In a political point of view, the importance of governing the inhabitants with justice, kindness, and liberality must be obvious to every person who regarded the position of the colony, and the population of which it was composed." Again, on the 3d of June 1825, Sir Robert Farquhar said that he had himself "proceeded in 1810 to the capture of Bourbon, accompanied by that meritorious officer Captain Willoughby, who had shed his blood so often in the service of the country, who distributed proclamations which held out to the inhabitants of the Mauritius, not only the advantages they enjoyed under the protection of France, but the permanent advantages of British Colonies. The prospects held out were free trade, and the fullest protection to the produce of the Colony in the markets of Great Britain. How did the facts stand? They had lost the extensive trade they formerly possessed, and they were met with the severest restrictions in the ports of this country. Bourbon being severed by the treaty of Paris from Mauritius, enjoyed all her ancient advantages, and the contrast of such prosperity with the depression of Mauritius, naturally tended to create discontent and alienate the feelings of the inhabitants of the latter. The consequence was that Mauritius was placed in this anomalous situation since her connexion with England, that she was sacrificed to European policy, and, as to her trade, depressed under some reference to our India system, with which she had no other connexion than her position, within some visionary boundary some few degrees east of the Cape of Good Hope. There was France on one side encouraging and protecting the property of Bourbon, and the Netherlands on the other most assiduous in developing the resources of Java, while Mauritius was permitted to dwell upon her losses and such a galling contrast. If hereafter any anti-English European power should arise in India, what co-operation or attachment could we expect from a people to whom such pledges have been given, and by whom such treatment was received? Its importance was best exemplified in the recollection of those effects which it had already accomplished. It assisted, when under the Government of France, in endangering the security of India, and had at one time captured Madras."

Contrast of Bourbon with the Mauritius.

Madras captured by the French from Mauritius.

The House are well aware that Madras was besieged by the French from the Mauritius under M. de la Bourdonnais, captured September 10th, 1744, plundered to the value of 200,000 £, ransomed for 440,000 £, and only finally restored to British dominion at the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1749.

Annual outlay of France in the Mauritius.

The expenses of the colony previous to the capture were in great part defrayed by the mother country. The average amount paid by France was eight millions of francs, or 330,000 £ per annum; the local taxation in 1811 being no more than 61,562 £. In 1845 it had increased to 296,828 £. In 1825 tardy justice was at last done to the Mauritius, and her Sugar cultivation was put upon an equality with that of the British West Indies. The exportation of her Sugars, which had been but 10,860 tons in 1825, rapidly increased. In 1832 it had mounted up to 36,700 tons. The revenue of the colony, which in 1824 had fallen short of the expenditure by 64,570 £, in 1828, for the first time, showed an excess of 6,523 £, and in 1830 an excess of 25,442 £.

Contemporary increase of Sugar cultivation and revenue in the Mauritius.

But the justice of the mother country did not long endure. In 1833 the mother country decreed the emancipation of her slaves, in breach of the terms of Sir Robert Farquhar's Proclamation, and of the terms of capitulation, "that all private property shall be respected." The value of the slaves, ascertained by the Government Commissioners, was assessed at 4,783,103 £. 15 s. The compensation paid was but 2,112,632 £. 10 s. This the colonists submitted to with resignation,

Inadequate amount of compensation money paid to the Mauritius.

resignation, under the promise of the services of the negroes as apprentices for seven years, of which they were, at the end of four years, forcibly deprived, without any compensation; they submitted to that new deprivation also with resignation, Lord Stanley, at once the servant of the Crown and the organ of the nation's will, as represented by a majority of the House of Commons, having entered into this honourable understanding with the planters, that they should never be subjected to the competition of slave-grown produce in the home market. When seeking to allay the fears of the Planters that ruin would be brought upon them by the emancipation of their slaves, he used this language: "We are told too, that the effect of such a proceeding will necessarily be to cause a great diminution in the amount of production; that it will be absolutely impracticable to cultivate sugar; that the colonies must be thrown up, and that nothing but ruin will ensue. Sir, so far as the amount of the production of sugar is concerned, I am not quite certain that to some extent a diminution of that production would be matter of regret. I am not quite certain that it might not be for the benefit of the planters and of the colonists themselves in the end, if that production were in some degree diminished." Can any other construction, in truth, be put on this declaration, than that the colonists were to be guaranteed the exclusive enjoyment of the British market against slave-grown produce?

In the consideration of the case of the Mauritius, Your Committee deem it but just to those great firms connected with that colony, which but two years ago stood so high in public estimation for character and for wealth, to state that they have had before them the affairs of four great houses out of five connected with the Mauritius, which have fallen victims to the ruin which has overwhelmed the island. Your Committee refer to the firms of Messrs. Reid, Irving & Company, Messrs. Gower, Nephews & Company, Messrs. Barclay, Brothers & Company, and Messrs. Cockerell, Larpent & Company, who, in the course of the last summer and autumn, were obliged to suspend their payments.

It appears by the evidence of Mr. Blyth, a co-inspector with Mr. Baring and Mr. McChlery of the affairs of Messrs. Reid, Irving & Company, that Messrs. Reid, Irving & Company possessed five estates in the Mauritius, and were the fixed consignees of 18 others. The crop of 1846-47, grown upon their estates or constituting part of their fixed annual consignments, amounted to 8,800 tons; the capital invested in those 23 estates was 815,000*l.*; the actual loss upon the year's produce was 40,000*l.* But estimating 10*l.* of the fall of 13*l.* a ton, which has taken place in Sugar between January 1847 and January 1848, as occasioned by the competition of Slave-grown Sugar, they are entitled to say that they have lost upon 8,800 tons a sum of no less than 88,000*l.* in the annual value of their Sugar. The capital invested in those 23 estates was 815,000*l.*, of which 540,000*l.* belonged to Messrs. Reid, Irving & Company, and they have a right to charge the Act of 1846 with a diminution in the value of their produce to the amount of 88,000*l.*

The estimated crop for the years 1847-48 is 8,500 tons, besides contract sugars about 1,200 tons, making together 9,700 tons, which Messrs. Reid, Irving & Company expected to have received in the current year; 10*l.* a ton, upon 9,700 tons, represents a value of 97,000*l.*; this upon the average of the two years' crop would represent an annual difference of 92,500*l.*, which, assuming the value of such property at 10 years' purchase, would represent a depreciation of capital to the extent of 925,000*l.* Thus it would appear that Messrs. Reid, Irving & Company, and the other parties concerned with them in this investment of 815,000*l.*, but for the depreciation of their property by an act of the Legislature, might have been still in possession of estates of large value, instead of being reduced to ruin.

In like manner, Messrs. Gower, Nephews & Company had invested in the Mauritius 346,498*l.*; they suspended payments for 400,000*l.*; they showed assets, independent of their Mauritius properties, to the amount of 112,000*l.* The fall in the value of their produce (4,110 tons of Sugar) consequent upon the change in the Imperial policy, being 10*l.*, equal to 41,100*l.* a year, taken at the same estimate of 10 years' purchase, represents a depreciated capital to the extent of 411,000*l.*

This, added to their other assets of 112,000*l.*, would have exhibited a property worth 523,000*l.*, to set-off against liabilities of 400,000*l.*; thus showing surplus 123,000*l.*

Implied promise by Lord Stanley of increased price in the British market as a recompense for the abridgement of the apprenticeship.

Statement of the depreciation of the property of the insolvent Mauritius firms.

The fall in price of their produce by the Act of 1846 is the cause of the depreciation and insolvency.

Reid, Irving & Co.

Gower, Nephews & Co.

Messrs.

*Barclay, Brothers
& Co*

Messrs. Barclay, Brothers & Company's liabilities are 389,000*l.*, their assets 398,000*l.* Their annual produce of Sugar was 5,000 tons. The same fall of 10 *l.* a ton, represents 50,000*l.* a year; and assuming the principle of capitalizing, 50,000*l.* a year, at 10 years' purchase, would be represented by 500,000*l.* Thus Messrs. Barclay & Brothers, instead of being barely able to meet their liabilities, would have been able to meet those liabilities and have had a large surplus.

*Cockerell, Larpent
& Co.*

Sir George Larpent called in, and examined by the Committee, informed them that he was proprietor of estates in the Mauritius, consisting of about 3,787 acres, of which 1,500 were under cultivation of the cane. This property, in the years 1844 and 1845, was valued at about 490,440 dollars, being about 98,000*l.* But in a recent estimate of their assets, it was taken at about 75,000*l.* Sir George Larpent does not ascribe entirely to the Bill of 1846, the reduction in the value of his estates; he lays much to the account of the vacillating policy of the Colonial Office in respect to Coolie immigration and Coolie contracts. He says, "I think the estates were rendered unprofitable by the circumstances I have mentioned; namely, our having been deprived of labour, by legislative enactments, from 1838 and 1839, when we were prohibited from importing Coolies; and when apprenticeship expired: those two main circumstances occasioned great losses upon that property, by reducing the quantity made; and I should remark here, that on properties such as estates in tropical climates, you are obliged to keep up the whole machinery, and to continue the cultivation of the estates at almost any expense, to prevent their going into total ruin; such is the power of vegetation." But inasmuch as he represents that his estimated produce is about 1,100 tons of Sugar, it would seem that an appreciation of 10 *l.* a ton upon his produce would give him increased annual proceeds to the amount of 11,000*l.* a year, which would have been held a very good interest upon any sum under or about 100,000*l.*

The investment by these houses would have been profitable, but for the depreciation in the price of Sugar.

Thus it would appear, that though it may be held that there is some imprudence in merchants or bankers locking up their capital in distant estates, or in any estates that may not be immediately available, it can scarcely be said that these great merchants ought to be made responsible for the vacillation in the Imperial policy, or deserve the reproach of having been guilty of any unreasonable act of imprudence. For these houses having invested about 1,500,000*l.* in their Mauritius properties, received from them about 20,000 tons of Sugar per annum; and the evidence shows that this Sugar cost about 26 *l.* per ton in bond in England, and netted at the prices previous to the Act of 1846 about 31*l.* 10*s.* per ton. These firms would consequently have received a balance of 8*l.* 10*s.* per ton, or a clear revenue of 170,000*l.* per annum, independent of their collateral profit as merchants, shipowners, and commission agents, if their produce had not been depreciated in value by the Act of 1846; and it is not just to brand with imprudence those who may have invested their capital at the rate of 150,000*l.* for every 17,000*l.* revenue in land situated in the British colonies.

The depreciation in the price of Sugar does not result from the panic from over produce of British plantation.

It has been argued that the fall in the price of Sugar does not arise out of the Act of 1846, but is only the counterpart of the general depreciation in property which occurred in the course of the last year, consequent upon the monetary crisis. The prices of Indigo and Corn, and Rice and Cotton, have been referred to, as proofs that some other cause than that of any alteration in the legislation of the country has been at work to produce this great and ruinous fall in the price of colonial produce. But whilst the Witnesses brought before Your Committee in general acknowledge that 3*l.* out of the 13*l.* fall, which has occurred in Sugar, may be ascribed to the times and to the monetary crisis, Your Committee are of opinion that the larger portion of the fall in the price of Sugar can only justly be ascribed to the inundation of foreign Sugar which has come into consumption in Great Britain under the Act of 1846, or is still hanging in heavy stocks over the Sugar market. The dearth and famine in 1846-47, and the utter loss of potatoes before 1847, contrasted with the great harvest for the summer of 1847, sufficiently account for the revolution in the prices of grain and in rice. In like manner, the failure of the cotton crop in 1846 sufficiently accounted for the great rise in 1846 and 1847 in the price of cotton, and the fall at the end of 1847 and the beginning of 1848 following upon a more than average crop in the United States; whilst as regards indigo the evidence

evidence before the Committee is, that, notwithstanding that the importation of indigo in 1847 exceeded by some 2,800 cwts. the importation of the year before, and notwithstanding the greatly diminished extent of the cotton manufactures in 1847, as compared with 1846, and, as a consequence upon that diminution, the decreased demand for indigo, at the present time it maintains within from five to ten per cent. of the price it bore at the corresponding period of last year. But with respect to Sugar the case is altogether different. Though it may be true that the crop of 1847 exceeded the crop of the previous year in the British possessions as follows:—

							<i>Tons.</i>
In 1847	.	-	-	-	-	-	289,628
In 1846	-	-	-	-	-	-	259,829
Showing an increased Importation of } British Sugar, in 1847, of - - }							29,799

Yet the consumption of Sugar in Great Britain, exclusive of Foreign Sugar, so nearly kept pace with the increased supply, that to meet it there was an increased consumption of 27,982 tons. Thus, but for the excess of Foreign Sugar, the increased supply over consumption in 1847, as compared with 1846, would have merely been 1,717 tons. But a more complete refutation of this argument will be found in the comparative action upon the price of British Plantation and of Havannah Sugar, between May 1846 and December 1847, which is exhibited in the clearest way in the admirable Chart of prices of British Plantation and Havannah Sugars accompanying this Report, showing at one view the comparative fluctuations in the prices of British Colonial and Havannah Sugar during the two periods of 1840, 1841, 1842, and 1833, and of 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847, prepared by Mr. Woodhouse, one of the most eminent Sugar brokers in the City of London; from which it will be seen that whilst Yellow Havannah Sugar, from being at 20*s.* in May 1846, was at 20*s.* 6*d.* in December 1847, having thus risen 6*d.* per cwt., the average price of British Plantation Sugar, which was 36*s.* 6*d.* in May 1846, had fallen to 22*s.* 5*d.* in December 1847. Thus whilst Havannah Sugar rose 6*d.*, British Plantation Sugar fell no less than 14*s.* 1*d.* during the same period, showing a difference in the action of general causes upon Slave-grown Sugar as compared with British Plantation, of no less than 14*s.* 7*d.* Your Committee, therefore, are of opinion that no impartial mind can assign to the monetary crisis, or to the increased production of the Sugar crop in the British West Indies, a fall of price which so injuriously prejudiced British Colonial Sugar, but from which Slave-grown Sugar was more than exempt.

But the colonies of the Mauritius do not confine their grievances to this reduction in the price of their produce, or to the injury that was done to them by the emancipation of their Slaves under a compensation, which, in fact, was only a composition of about 8*s.* 10½*d.* in the pound of their admitted value; but they allege against each successive administration of the colonial affairs of the British Empire, that from time to time they have been harassed by the most vacillating, always by the most costly and unwise, policy as regards the immigration of free labourers and the system of industrial laws, and by the inordinate and oppressive expenditure of the Colonial Government, increasing in a converse ratio to the diminution of the Planters' profits. They allege that, notwithstanding the emancipation of their slaves in 1834, the colonists of the Mauritius willingly, zealously, and energetically applied themselves, by the most enterprising investment of capital in improved machinery, and in the importation of free labourers, to make amends for the loss of the slave labour of which they had been deprived. That consequent upon those exertions, and the permission to import Coolies from the East India Company's territories, they not only largely increased the number of their labourers, though at a great cost, having expended in private enterprise 250,000*l.* between the years 1834 and 1838; but they largely increased the production of the colony, having increased the exportation of Sugar from 27,290 tons to 30,360 tons in 1839. This occurred under Colonial regulations which permitted contracts for five years, by which the Planters were enabled to secure the continuous labour of the Indian Coolies; unfortunately, however, for the Colonies, in 1839 the

Mauritius complains of the vacillating policy of Colonial administration.

The Mauritians zealously endeavoured to make amends for the loss of their slaves.

These endeavours
were checked by the
Colonial Office in
1838.

Great rise in the
labourers' demand for
wages consequent
thereon.

Change of Colonial
policy in 1843.

Injurious restrictions
in the policy of 1843.

same shifting policy which has now been their bane as regards fiscal regulations, then was their bane as regarded the Colonial Office regulations in respect to labour. On the allegation that abuses had taken place in respect of the Coolie immigration into the Mauritius, the further immigration of Coolies was prohibited by an Order in Council in 1838, and "*five-years' contracts*" with the Coolies already in the island were forbidden; so that whilst restricted from recruiting the labour market of the colony, the Planters, at the same time, were each year subjected more and more to the caprices of the old labourers of the island, and every year more and more laid at their mercy. The effect was, that wages in 1838 immediately rose from 10*s.* to 40*s.* a month. These excessive wages furnishing the Indians with the easy means of procuring rum, added to their demoralization; their industry fell off; the produce of the island diminished from 35,000 to 25,000 tons of Sugar a year; and the estates, as a matter of course, fell into a ruinous condition. At length, in 1843, the Colonial Office repented its policy of 1839, and again permitted the importation of Coolies; but this permission was unhappily accompanied by a fatal condition that the Planter should be restricted to "*yearly contracts*." Whilst the old and burdensome restrictions upon the mode of importation continued, no ship under 300 tons burden, or with a less height than six feet between decks, was held by the Colonial Office to be sufficiently commodious for these Indian Coolies, notwithstanding their diminutive stature. It may be, that in the opinion of the Colonial Office, no ship under 300 tons can be reckoned upon to make a safe voyage across the Eastern Ocean; but regarding this matter Your Committee would rather recommend attention to Mr. Hunter's evidence. The Planters were restricted to the most distant and expensive, and worst markets for labour, namely, Madras, Bombay, and Bengal; the first distant four weeks' voyage, and the latter from five to six weeks; whilst they were forbidden to obtain in the neighbouring island of Madagascar (within 400 miles of the Mauritius), the far superior class of labourers, and are still forbidden, which there might be obtained, according to all the evidence laid before the Committee, at little more than one third of the cost of bringing the inferior man from the Continent of India.

Number of Coolies
imported.

Number of vagabonds.

Desertion from em-
ployment.

Number of Coolies
returned to India.

Cost of importing
Coolies.

In proof of this statement, Your Committee would refer to the evidence of Mr. Raymond, who arrived in England from the Mauritius in September last, formerly an officer in the Army, for the last 10 years an Inspector of Distilleries in Mauritius. He is asked whether he is well acquainted with the population in the Mauritius, and having answered that question in the affirmative, he is requested to inform the Committee of the state of morality of the Coolie population in the Island. His answer is, "There is no morality at all among them." He says "There have been about from 90,000 to 93,000 Coolies imported into the island; that of that number 20,000 were vagabonds when he left the colony, 1,000 more were no better, keeping retail shops which served as depôts for stolen goods, and that in those shops women are kept, who go out as decoys to seduce the labourers from the estates; that those decoys seduce the Coolies working upon the estates to come to these shops, in order that those who keep them may plunder them in one way or other of all they possess; that 2,000 Coolies deserted before their terms of service were fulfilled; that after the government of the Mauritius had incurred a great expense in getting them from India, they deserted from their employers and betook themselves to theft, amassing sums of money which enabled them to return home before their terms were expired; that the island lost, in 1844, 885 men, 50 women, and one child; in 1845, 1,750 men, 117 women, and 29 children; in 1846, 1,910 men, 136 women, and 57 children; and in 1847, up to the date of his departure from the Mauritius, that is to say, the 27th of April last inclusive 750 men, 64 women, and 12 children. He is asked, "Do you mean that the colony lost those people after having paid the expenses of their importation, and without having been paid by their full service for five years in the island?—Yes; the total number is 5,295 persons; that is not including the 20,000 vagabonds." He is asked, if "the 20,000 vagabonds, as far as the interests of the island are concerned, or the interests of the importers of Coolies, stand exactly in the same position as those who have left." He answers, "In the same position." That the rate of importation of those people was originally 7*l.*, but that it is now 6*l.*, and that he thinks quite enough. That those 20,000 vagabonds that had been imported at a cost of 120,000*l.*,
are

are just as much a loss to the island and the Planters as if they had returned to India. He says, "That they are at once a loss and an incumbrance."

He goes on to say that it is quite impossible to estimate the loss to a Planter if those people are seduced from him in the middle of crop time, and suggests that such industrial laws should be passed as to secure to the Planter a longer period of service; and more especially to secure him from having his servants seduced from him during crop time. Speaking of a class of men whom he designates as a nuisance and as crimps, he says, "These men originally came from India, at the expense of the Colony, for the express purpose of cultivating the soil. The damage they do is incalculable, for they keep gambling-houses and entertain female decoys, who seduce the men from the camps on pay days. Much may be said for and against the high rates of wages that the planter is obliged to pay, or sometimes promises to pay to his men. This originated in jealousy and competition, which the English crimp and the sirdar have turned to their advantage—for a crimp, I have known some of these persons to make 5*l.* per day at this traffic,—or a sirdar will take the band to the higher bidder, having so much per head, and will induce it to desert in a month afterwards in order to sell it again. The wages average from 14*s.* to 20*s.* per month, with rations, which are sufficient. The term of service extends only to one year: thus a planter, after having trained a band that is useless for the first six months, from ignorance and scorbutic humours resulting from a sea voyage, must part with them very often in the middle of his crop, and commence training afresh."

Crimps who decoy Coolies from their employers

He says, "Soldiers and sailors serve a certain number of years; but the lowest caste of Indians who frequent Mauritius, must only serve one year. Soldiers and sailors if sick are confined within hospital limits; but the Coolie if sick must not be confined; this would be an infringement on the liberty of the subject; he goes abroad, drinks as much spirits as he thinks proper, eats whatever suits his fancy, and conveys the infection to his comrades."

Inconvenience of Coolies not being confined to hospitals when sick

He is asked if he knows how long the Indians remain away; he answers, "When the Indian gets drunk, he is not generally sober for three or four days, and then he is not fit for work for three or four days more." He is asked if he meant to say that those 70 men who were away from their work on Monday morning were useless for a week. He answers, "Yes, and the owner of the estate had to lose some of his time in coming forward and bringing complaints against them to the Stipendiary Magistrate." He is asked, "When he does come forward and make his complaint to the Stipendiary Magistrate, does he get redress?" He answers, "In some cases he does. There is a feeling which pervades many Stipendiary Magistrates in the Mauritius, that the Indian must be supported at all hazards." He is asked what system he would propose in order to force the Coolies to fulfil their contracts and do their work. He answers, "I should think they ought to be obliged to serve five years; but it is very questionable whether the Coolies will ever settle down and become a resident peasantry, nor will the Chinese. I have weighed the matter very minutely, and have come to this conclusion, that the Mauritius ought to procure labourers from Madagascar. The natives of this island would become stationary and useful."

Loss of industrious labour by drunkenness

Deficient execution of the Stipendiary Magistrates

Contracts with the Coolies should be for five years

Speaking of the facility of getting labourers from Madagascar, he says it is about 300 miles from the Mauritius; that the population is computed at 5,000,000; that half the population is descended directly from Africans, the other half a mixture of Arabs, Malays, and French pirates. He says, that from what he has seen of the population, and he has been in the Island, they are a very superior race, and he believes them to be very industrious people; and being asked whether they would be willing to come over to the Mauritius as free labourers, he says, "I am positive of it." Being asked whether he would undertake to say that he could obtain any number of men and women, and take them to the Mauritius for 2*l.* a head, he answers "For 2*l.* or 2*l.* 10*s.*" He is asked if it would be necessary, in order to do that, to make a treaty with the Queen. He says, "No; the Queen is so incensed against us, owing to French intrigue, that she would not allow us one; it is the Sakalavas, on the south-west of Madagascar, he means." He had previously explained that the people of Madagascar were divided into two nations, the Hovahs, and the Sakalavas; that the Sakalavas are very brave, and generally at war with the Hovahs, who are more immediately under the dominion of the Queen. He

Madagascar.

says, "that previous to his quitting the Mauritius he had been invited by three of the most influential of the South Sakalava chiefs to train and discipline their troops, but private reasons made him decline the offer." He is asked if he thinks he could get the Sakalavas in any number to come over to the Mauritius. He answers, "Yes, and they would be too happy to emigrate; you might get 40,000 men for 8s. a month; one Sakalava would work as much as two Indians in a day. In their own country they, the Sakalavas, are paid only 1s. a month. A proportionate number of women would accompany them at little cost." He is asked if in his opinion wages are too high. He answers, "Decidedly, both for the planter and the labourer too. If it be desired to make those Coolies industrious, they ought not to receive such high wages; they do not receive them in India; they are far better off in every respect than the peasantry of my own unfortunate country, Ireland." He is asked, what are the wages. He answers, "14 s. to 20 s. a month, and their rations besides." They are allowed to live free upon the estate? "Quite free; they can plant vegetables if they think proper, and have plenty of ground for that use." And they pay nothing for their huts? "No, and they can rear pigs and poultry, and do rear them to a great extent."

Coolies would contract for five years.

Being cross-examined with respect to his estimate that the vagabonds amount to 20,000, he says, "Some estimate them at 30,000; I have had my information from many Magistrates, who have always computed them at 20,000." He is asked whether he thinks the Coolies would come if they thoroughly understood, before they came, that they were to be bound to work for five or seven years. He says, "I am sure they would." He is then asked if they would repent of it afterwards. He answers, "No; provided they received fair treatment, and were made to serve five years: if this distinct impression was made upon their minds, I believe they would settle down on the estates; because it must be remembered, when they leave India they cannot be worse off than they are; consequently they have nothing to lose, and have everything to gain."

Proportion of races in the Mauritius.

Questioned as to the several proportions of the different populations; he answers, "There are 722 Chinese, 35,000 blacks, 9,000 *Englishmen and well-affected creoles*, (when I say well-affected, I mean well-affected towards the interests of the British Government); 23,000 *French and French creoles*. The other persons may be computed at 5,000 of different nations."

This Witness gave to Your Committee more evidence respecting the feelings of certain classes, involving very grave and serious considerations of State: this evidence has been already communicated to the Colonial Office, to the Boards of Trade, Customs, and Excise; but Your Committee have not thought it prudent, under all the circumstances of the case, to give it that publicity which its communication to The House would necessarily impart to it.

H. Hunter, Esq.

The next Witness Your Committee examined was Hugh Hunter, Esq., now a large proprietor in the Mauritius, formerly himself a shipowner; served during the war with considerable distinction in the King's service, in the West Indies, as a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy. The whole of this gentleman's evidence deserves attentive perusal, and is so interesting that Your Committee, though even at great length, introduce it almost bodily into this Report. Mr. Hunter had been a resident in the Mauritius from the year 1828 to the year 1845, and was a Member of the Legislative Council from 1840 to 1845. He was co-proprietor of several fertile estates, which produced 4,500 tons of Sugar a year, and employed about 3,000 labourers. He stated that the Mauritius received compensation for 64,100 slaves, being 2,000 less than the proper number, and received compensation at something under 31l. each. He stated in great detail the comparative cost of the labour and food for a slave previous to emancipation, and of a Coolie; and proves that the cost of the Coolie is 19l. against 3l. 11 s., the annual cost of a slave in the olden times. He asserts that during the apprenticeship no vagabondage took place, and the estates were all in good order; and ascribes that to the consequence of free labour being allowed to be imported into the colony, the labourers being subject to five-year contracts. Speaking of the soil of the Mauritius, he says that it is of volcanic origin, and particularly good for sugar. That from the circumstance that large stones and rocks are sprinkled all through the island, ploughs cannot be successfully used, and that manual labour is alone applicable. That drainage would be a work of supererogation, as their want is not of drainage, but of water from Heaven. That as far as improvement goes, they

Extensive property of Mr. Hunter.

Compensation.
Cost of maintaining the slave and Coolie.

have

have the finest mills in their manufactories from Glasgow, London, and Liverpool; mills running from 10, 12, 16, and 20 horse power; and in several establishments the new plan of boiling in *vacuo* of Derone & Caille, in France, is used. No expense has been spared by the proprietors in the Mauritius; everything that enterprise and capital could do for the improvement of the land has been done. He explains how it was that the compensation in 1834 was paid upon 64,100 slaves instead of 66,100, to which the island was entitled. With reference to Indian immigration, he states, that between 1834 and 1839, 25,468 Coolies were introduced at the sole expense of the planters and merchants, at a cost amounting to not less than 10*l.* each, or an aggregate of 254,680*l.*; to which must be added a farther sum of 20,000*l.* or 30,000*l.* for the return passage of those whom the planters were engaged to send back. He says, "They were men who came under a term of engagement for five years, on condition that at the end of the five years, if they chose, they should have their return passage paid; those who applied for the return passage at the end of the five years were sent back, and those who did not claim it at the end of the five years, lost their claim to the passage back; that was the stipulation in the contract. The second immigration was under the one-year contract system, but this first was a private enterprise, at the private cost of the proprietors, and the expense amounted to 254,680*l.*—a proof that the colonies have not been wanting in their endeavours to keep the cultivation up." The first cost, he says, of the Coolies, was from 7*l.* to 10*l.* a head. He is asked if the result of that experiment, as far as regards the cultivation of sugar plantations and the interest of the colony, was very successful. He answers:—"It was most satisfactory; the men under the five-years' engagement were happy and comfortable in themselves, they became attached to their masters, and they made vast sums of money. With regard to those who returned to India at the end of the five years, I will show the average sum of money that they took back. The Committee is comparing the present system of immigration with the former, which was under contracts for five years; the present is under one-year contracts. The Indians being by nature averse, and by habit unaccustomed, to steady labour, and being withal of a capricious and roving disposition, enter upon a yearly engagement without any desire or intention of remaining in the same employment after the expiration of the term; hence they do not become attached either to the place or the employer; 30,000 Indians re-engaged before the stipendiary magistrates in 1844, of whom 20,000 must have changed their employment; they have, therefore, no inducement to raise stock, such as pigs, goats and poultry, or to keep gardens, which were sources of large profit and comfort to the Indians under the five-years' engagement, but which to an unsettled and shifting population would only be a loss and incumbrance; 'that is to say, if a man left his place of residence at the end of one year's engagement, he would be encumbered by taking away the live stock that he had obtained during that engagement.' It may be mentioned that the poultry of one man returning to India was bought by his master for 92 dollars. The sums amassed by old Indians were very large; 90 men leaving one proprietor to return to India, took with them 13,134 dollars, or 145 dollars each; 27 leaving another, took away 4,575 dollars, or 169 dollars each; many have left with sums varying from 200 to 500 dollars; and a chief sirdar on one estate took with him 1,500 dollars. Those who are acquainted with the condition of these men in India, and the value of such sums in that country, will appreciate the importance of this statement.' Three men who had been seven years with me on my estate, wished to return to India; they came to me with 2,240 dollars, which they were afraid to take back in specie, and they asked me for a hoondie, which is a bill of exchange, on my friends in India to pay them in Calcutta; that hoondie was given them; they had been seven years in my service; those were under five years' engagement.—Notwithstanding those large profits upon the wages of their labour, I believe the planters prospered very much under that system?—During those five years we throve very well indeed.—During the whole course of those five years, the planters were making considerable profits?—They were in a very good condition; the estates changed hands and were rapidly liquidating.—Was there any vagabondage?—Very little indeed; the report will show that the proportion of vagabondage and absenteeism under the old system was nothing as compared with what it is

Valuable machinery in the Mauritius.

Great outlay for immigration in the Mauritius.

Satisfactory working of the five-years' contract system.

Large sums saved by Indians under the five-years' contract system

Great increase of produce in the Mauritius up to 1839.

Evil results of the change of policy in 1839.

Great exertions made in 1843.

Short contracts have worked very badly

now. There are two or three names given to absentees from estates; there are some classed under the name of Maroons, that is, those who absent themselves from estates altogether; and others are temporary absentees, such as for two or three or five days in the week; the report shows the numbers remaining in the colony from the first immigration under five-years' contracts to be 11,000; that at the end of the five years, instances are known of nearly half the labourers re-engaging for another year on the same estates; on others, 30 per cent. and 20 per cent. are assumed to have changed masters, or to have become hawkers, servants, &c.; accounting for the remaining 10,700 of the first immigration; the first immigration consisted of 25,000; a great number of those returned to India, and there remained 11,000, or 50 per cent.—At the end of that period all the estates were in a very good condition?—They were in a very good condition in 1839.—And you had increased the exportation of sugar to Great Britain from 4,680 tons in 1825, to 30,360 tons in 1839?—I consider that in 1839 there were from 30,000 to 35,000 tons produced; 30,000 tons appear to have come to England, but from 2,000 to 3,000 tons always go to the Cape of Good Hope and South Australia.—An Order in Council came out suddenly, putting a stop to immigration, and that was unfortunately done contemporaneously with the cessation of apprenticeship?—Precisely; both took place together; I think the apprenticeship ceased by proclamation in the island in the middle of March 1839; I was on my return to England at the time, and when I arrived in England in May, I found that the immigration had also been stopped; so that we lost our apprentices, and the door was shut to our having any fresh immigrants.—Wages, I believe, rose from 10 s. a month to 40 s. a month?—Wages rose gradually from 1839 to 1843, when the new men came; in 1841 and 1842, they were as high as from nine dollars and nine dollars-and-a-half or ten dollars, which is 36 s., 38 s., and 40 s.—The natural consequence of which was that estates fell into a ruinous condition, and the export of the crop to England fell from 30,360 tons in 1839 to 23,770 tons in 1843?—The crop, I think, of 1842 and 1843 respectively was 50,000,000 of pounds, which is 25,000 tons, and 57,000,000 of pounds, which is 27,000 tons; but that will not be shown in the returns of the exportation, because always a certain proportion goes to the colonies, but with that proportion they exported in two years 26,000 tons each year, which is equal to 7,000 tons diminution; the loss to me, in those two years, was 1,500 tons.—This is an official return of the exports to Great Britain; yours comprises the entire export to Great Britain, the Cape of Good Hope, and other places?—Yes; in 1839 it was from 67,000,000 to 70,000,000 of pounds.—Notwithstanding all this the colony went on at the end of 1843, making great efforts, and advancing large sums for the cultivation, and for machinery, and other improvements?—We commenced a new immigration in 1843, but during the period from 1839 to 1843 we could not get sufficient labourers; the consequence was that estates fell rapidly into decline; that was the case with several estates which I had to do with; one estate in particular which had produced 600 tons of sugar in 1840, did not produce 300 tons in 1843 and 1844.—In 1843, when immigration was permitted again, though the contracts were limited only to one year, you again embarked fresh capital, and made renewed efforts in the cultivation of sugar?—We did, to a large extent.—What has been the result of those contracts for one year only?—They have worked remarkably badly.—From that period, or rather from the earlier period of 1839, dates the enormous increase of vagabondage?—From 1843; perhaps you will allow me to explain, that we were buoyed up with hopes in 1843. Her Majesty's Order in Council, authorizing the renewal of immigration, passed in 1842; it took effect in 1843; and as the Committee are well aware, in 1841 a resolution was carried against the then Government, expressive of the opinion of Parliament, that slave-grown sugar should never be admitted for consumption into this country in competition with our own free-labour sugar. A general election took place immediately after this, on which occasion a large majority was returned to Parliament in favour of that resolution; I think there were 90 returned to The House in favour of that resolution of 1841, thus showing that the people of England were quite opposed to the consumption of slave-grown sugar in this country. We placed implicit reliance on these expressed opinions of the people of England, and also on the repeated declarations of the eminent statesmen in both Houses of Parliament, that the laws favouring the colonies would never be impaired,

impaired, by allowing the competition of slave-grown sugar with our own. On the faith of those opinions expressed by the people of England, and by the Parliament of Great Britain, we made the greatest exertions, by advancing fresh capital for machinery and the payment of wages, and we brought the crops from 25,000 tons to 65,000 tons in 1846; and just at the moment when we hoped to reap the benefit of our exertions, we were most unexpectedly met by the Bill of 1846, which dashed our hopes to the ground; for myself, I most distinctly say, that I never would have gone more deeply into the affairs of cultivation, if I could for one moment have supposed the possibility of this Act of 1846 being passed. This was no reckless or ill-founded speculation, it was based upon what we considered the most sacred guarantees and pledges of the British Parliament and the British people; I never would have put one sixpence into the land of the Mauritius; I did not require it at that time; but unquestionably, if I had, I would not have put one sixpence into the ground but for that pledge. I did not go into any reckless speculation, but I went on what I consider the most sacred pledges that could be given to an Englishman.—You relied upon the sentiments expressed by the Parliament, and by the people of the entire country, at the general election of 1841?—Yes.—And if the worst came to the worst, you expected that if the Whigs returned to office again, you would have 12 s. differential duty?—I heard that there was an offer made to the West India body of 12 s. as a fixed duty; but I confess that when I went into this, I relied upon the publicly declared sentiments of the most eminent and leading men in both Houses of Parliament, and that, too, confirmed by the general election; and I felt myself as safe in embarking my property in the Sugar cultivation as though I had my property in the Bank in London; and I was the victim of putting reliance upon such calculations.—You consider yourself a victim, not of any rash or ill-founded speculation, but entirely of the bad faith of Parliament and of the country?—Precisely.—I believe of five great mercantile houses which have been connected with estates in the Mauritius, directly or indirectly, four have failed since the Sugar Bill of 1846 came into operation?—They have.—And those four houses have advanced one million and a half sterling for the cultivation of sugar in the Mauritius?—According to the statements which are published, and accessible to everybody, of the state of their affairs, they appear to have that amount vested in landed property in the Mauritius, trusting entirely, I suppose, to the same guarantees as I trusted to.—Those investments have been made between the year of emancipation and the present time?—Yes, subsequently to the emancipation; what their failure took its origin from I am not prepared to say; but I believe that Reid, Irving & Company's affairs had taken their extension since the emancipation; the others I do not know so much about.—I believe, on the 30th of June 1846, when Sir Robert Peel's administration left power, the Gazette average price of Mauritius sugar was 35 s. 10 d.?—The price on the 30th of June 1846 was 35 s. 10 d., and on the 7th of July of the same year, it was 31 s.; a fall of 4 s. 10 d.—That was owing to the advent of the free traders to power?—I suppose it was. The gentlemen of Mincing-lane are very well able to watch their own interests; and I suppose they saw there was reason to pay 4 s. 10 d. less than they had been paying; but whether it was owing to this particular cause or to that, I cannot say.—Four shillings and ten-pence upon the import of 60,000 tons of sugar would be something like 290,000 l.?—Yes; that was the depreciation then merely upon the expectation of something going to take place. The sellers of sugar cannot bolster up the price; it is the grocers and refiners who buy it, and they are people with their eyes open.—I believe the sugar consigned to those four houses which failed amounted to 28,000 tons?—About 28,000 tons.—The fall in the price having been 12 l. a ton, that would make a difference of about 336,000 l.?—Yes.—That would be the amount of loss upon the produce consigned to them?—Precisely. In the balance sheet, it would show a difference of 336,000 l.?—Yes.—Can you state what the price of Mauritius sugar was in December 1846 and in December 1847?—On the 28th of December 1846, the price was 32 s. 2½ d., and on the 28th December 1847 it was 22 s. 2d.—Mr. Moffatt.] What is the price now?—The Gazette average price is about 23 s.; barely so much.—Chairman.] This sugar so consigned to these four mercantile houses is the growth of estates, which either belong to those merchants, or are hypothecated to them?—Certainly.—Therefore the reduction to the amount of 336,000 l.

The great exertions made by the Mauritians was on the faith of the acts of the people and Parliament of Great Britain.

Amount of protection proposed by Lord John Russell in 1841.

The Mauritius houses who had failed, had advanced 1,500,000 l.

for the cultivation of Sugar in the Mauritius.

Great depreciation of the property of these houses.

a year, at the ordinary calculation of 10 years' purchase, would be equivalent to a loss of 3,360,000 *l.* of capital?—Certainly; and moreover, if that difference in price had not taken place, and the prospects were not so gloomy as they are at this moment, if we were not in fact in utter despair, those estates would have been valuable, and might have been sold for the benefit of themselves or others.—But now they are perfectly unsaleable?—They are —Is it your opinion, that with a differential duty of 10 *s.* per cwt. the colony could produce sugar profitably to a large amount?—Yes.—To what amount?—It depends upon the number of people; if we had really efficient labour, the amount would be very large; but I consider that the labour we have now, though the labourers are many in number, is not real efficient labour; sugar cultivation requires constant, continuous and assiduous labour, to make it at all answer; it is not like the cultivation of fields in this country, where, when you have ploughed the land and sown it, you can let it lie; but you have to go over the land to keep it clean, and when the crop has arrived at maturity, you must cut and grind it, and manipulate it as regularly on the same day that you cut it as it is possible.—Have you made any calculation of the difference in the amount of work performed by the negroes at the time they were slaves, and the amount performed by the Coolies in the first, second, and third years of their education, if I may so call it?—I have. Speaking from my own practical knowledge of the working of a sugar plantation, that in the first year of apprenticeship they dug from 30 to 40 cane-holes a day; that in the second year the Coolie dug 60, and in the third year 80; the slaves before apprenticeship digging 100 cane-holes a day, and the ex-apprentices during apprenticeship 80 cane-holes; thus the Coolie performs in the first year six-tenths, and in the second years four-tenths less labour than the slave, and the apprentice two-tenths or one-fifth less.—And it is not till the third year that the labour of the Coolie becomes equivalent to that of the ex-apprentice?—No; and his labour is always less than the labour of the slave under the British legislation produced to the planter.—For those three years four-tenths less labour than the slave, the Coolie is paid 19 *l.* a year, whereas the slave cost 3 *l.* 11 *s.* only for a larger amount of labour?—Exactly; there is 33 per cent less labour, and the cost is in the proportion of 3 *l.* 11 *s.* to 19 *l.*—I believe the manufacture of sugar is generally performed on the estate separately?—It is.—But are there not instances where small proprietors who have not capital enough to enable them to erect buildings, send their canes to be, as it is called, passed by the adjoining mill?—Yes.—Is that found to answer?—It is found to answer in a small way; if that is with reference to central manufactories, it is a different point; but a person who has a mill must judge of the power he is possessed of, and his mill being only able to grind a certain quantity of cane during the period of crop-time, he will not engage with his neighbour, unless he is sure of passing his own, and also passing that additional quantity, if he engages to pass a larger quantity for his neighbour, he must increase his establishment by having more power, and he must enlarge his buildings so as to have boxes to cure the sugar in; in fact, he must enlarge his whole establishment.—And is there not great danger of incipient fermentation, if there is any delay in grinding the cane?—Yes; the cane must be ground immediately, and the more readily it is passed to the mill after being cut the better is the result.—Then I presume the probability is, that if a planter had a large mill, he would take care to grind his own canes before he ground his neighbours' canes?—There would always be a conflict of interest between the parties, and if he engaged with several to grind their canes, every man would be calling out for his own cane to be ground before his neighbour's.—If a mill-owner contracted to take canes in the raw state, it would be necessary for him to have a very large establishment of cattle and carts to bring the canes to the mill?—Certainly, those who pass canes for what they call *a/c et demi*, that is, half and half, the proprietor of the mill sends his cart and brings his cane, and he divides the produce between the proprietor of the land and the miller, as it is called; he takes the miller's share.—If Lord Grey's theory was to be carried into practice of centralized mills upon a large scale, in the same way as flour mills are constructed and used in this country, the miller would have to bring canes by cattle at a considerable cost?—It must necessarily be so, because the estates in the Mauritius are very large; they run from 800 to 2,000 acres, and therefore, if you undertake to have central establishments

Their property is quite unsaleable.
Amount of protection required

Work of Coolies as compared with Negroes

Central mills

establishments for neighbouring lands, some of the canes must come from a very great distance.—And the man who brought his canes from a distance could not possibly compete with the man whose canes were handy to the mill?—Certainly not.—As we all know, the produce of flour and bran from wheat is, in weight, very nearly the same as the weight of the wheat itself?—That I cannot answer; I am not much of a miller.—But I believe that in the case of canes, it requires from 10 to 15 tons of raw cane to produce one ton of sugar?—We calculate it in this way: we consider that one cart holds a ton of canes or 2,000 lbs., and that it gives from 120 to 140 lbs. of sugar the cart-load. It is easy to calculate that it does require from 10 to 15 tons of raw cane to produce a ton of sugar.—By Lord Grey's system of centralized mills, the cost of cartage prior to grinding would therefore be multiplied about fifteen-fold?—Yes.—Is it possible that the manufacture of sugar could be carried on upon such a principle as that?—I do not think in the Mauritius it would answer, for the reason I have stated, that estates are so large; they put up mills quite sufficient to manipulate the whole of the canes in proper time; but if they undertook to work and manipulate their neighbours' canes at a central mill, they must put up additional power, an additional boiling-house, and make an additional outlay of capital, which they are not able to do; they have not got it, and they could not do that under the existing prospects of the colony.—The grinding of cane can only proceed during the crop time?—Only then; so much so, that the cane must be ground in the proper season.—How many months is the cane season?—They begin to get everything in order in the middle of July, and it ought to be finished, in a good season, by Christmas.—So that it is exactly six months?—Yes; the rainy season commences in December, and the heavy rains in January; if you let your canes stand over, so that the canes are caught by the heavy rains in January, it is hardly worth while to cut them, for the moment the rain falls, the cane-juice loses its strength, fresh vegetation takes place, and the juice alters altogether in its qualities.—If I understand you rightly, now the sugar planter employs his hands and his cattle upon his estate during the crop season in supplying the mill with the sugar-cane; but in other seasons of the year, these same cattle and these same men can be turned to other accounts connected with the cultivation of sugar; but that would not apply to a man who was in no occupation but that of a miller; he would have no occupation for his mill-men, and no occupation for his cattle in the six months when there was no cane to be ground?—None; he would discharge the whole of his men, and, of course, his animals and carts would remain there doing nothing.—What we call eating their heads off?—Precisely.—I believe the island of Mauritius has suffered very considerably from the loss of its commerce, by the interruption of amicable relations with the Queen of Madagascar?—Very materially indeed; and not only the island of Mauritius, but the mother country.—The Mauritius derived her supplies of cattle, and a large portion of her supplies of rice and the orchilla weed from Madagascar?—Yes.—The result of the interruption of amicable relations with the Queen of Madagascar has been to double the price of cattle in the Mauritius?—Yes, fully to double it.—And the price of beef has increased five-fold?—The price of beef in former years was from 5*d.* to 7½*d.* a lb. I think, if I mistake not, the contract price by Government for the supply of the troops was about 14 sous, or under 4*d.* a lb., or about 4*d.* In the bazaar, the choice pieces were sold at from 6*d.* to 7*d.* a lb. According to the last accounts I have from the island, the price paid in the Bazaar is now 2*s.* 6*d.* a lb.—The passage from Calcutta to the Mauritius is 45 days?—It is, upon the average, 45 days.—From Madras it is 30 days?—It is.—From Madagascar it is about four days?—Madagascar is 450 miles distant from the island of Mauritius; it is all in the south-east trade; going down it is from two and a half to three days; coming back, the average, I should say, was 10 days, beating up against the wind.—We have before seen, that the cost of your slaves was 3*l.* 11*s.* a head per annum?—Yes.—Have you any reason to suppose that the cost of slaves in Brazil and Cuba and Porto Rico is higher than 3*l.* 11*s.* per head?—No, certainly not.—Have you every reason, on the contrary, to suppose that the slave-holders of Cuba, Brazil and Porto Rico subsist their slaves as cheaply as you subsisted your slaves?—There is no question of it; they raise their own food of Indian corn, or whatever they feed the slaves upon.—Then the free traders expect you, with Coolies that cost you 10*l.* passage

Madagascar.

Extra expense of having to get labour from India.

money, to compete with slave-holders; whilst they restrict your power of getting labourers from Bengal and Madras, one of which is 45 days' sail, and the other 30 days' sail; and when you could get any number of free labourers at 10 days' sail from you?—Yes.

Restrictions on getting labour from India.

I believe for a considerable time you were restricted to Calcutta for your labourers, and are not now permitted to go to Madras?—We are not at this moment; we are so far not permitted that, from a misapprehension of the instructions to the agent at the port of Madras, he will not allow even the men who volunteer to go from Madras to embark for the Mauritius, because he says that he has chartered ships for the West Indies; and men who volunteer to go to the Mauritius, and decline going to the West Indies, are prevented from going to the Mauritius by the agent at Madras, for the reason that he has these ships chartered for the West Indies only. A curious fact occurred a short time ago with regard to that point; there was a band of 70 men who presented themselves to the Madras agent ready for embarkation to the Mauritius; they were refused to be allowed to embark, and they found their way from Madras to Calcutta, at their own cost, either by land or by boat, and they went to the agent in Calcutta, and embarked at once for the Mauritius, and they arrived at the Mauritius; the refusal of the agent at Madras put those men to the expense of a journey, I suppose from 13 degrees north to 20 degrees north, or 700 miles' distance, to find an opportunity of going to the Mauritius.—Are you not put also to a great deal of unnecessary expense

Immigrants from Madras.

Restrictions regarding immigrant ships.

by being confined to certain ships appointed by Government?—Very much so.—You are only permitted to import your immigrants in ships of a certain size, and fitted out in a particular way?—We are only allowed to charter such ships that have six feet between decks, which limits the number of ships available for our operations to a very small number; the consequence of which is, that the owners of those ships find that they have a monopoly, and they charge their own price; what we want is, that we should be allowed to send persons in vessels of 200 and 250 tons, which in my opinion would be more healthy for the immigrants, and there are a number of those smaller vessels which trade from Calcutta to Mauritius with rice and grain; the more you crowd those men in a large ship, the more liable they are to have cholera and diseases incidental to India, and I think the restriction is not only more expensive, but more unsafe for the health and comfort of the people.—Do not you apprehend that a ship of 100 tons would be as safe in those seas as a ship of 300 tons?—There is no question of it; if the ship was a sound and good vessel, I would as soon be in her as in a vessel of 300 tons.—Is not this restriction to ships of large size burden perfectly ridiculous?—There is no question of it.—Would not the rice ships bring the immigrants at half the expense, if they were at liberty to do so?—I should say they would.—Would Port Louis be an hour's sail out of the way of an India ship going to England?—A ship going to England at the proper season of the year, any time from the month of April to the month of December, would come to the Mauritius without going out of her way; she would lose a little time, but she might anchor outside, and land her men, and receive payment for them, and proceed on her voyage; there are many vessels sailing from Madras which have comparatively very light freight; they would have room for 100 or for 70 men; they would take in those men and bring them to Mauritius, and get 3 l. or 4 l. per head; they would make 350 l. in the course of 24 hours, and sail again on their voyage.—Is it possible to conceive any reason why there should be a greater restriction as regards the transport of Coolies from Madras or Calcutta to the Mauritius, than there is upon the Scotch, English, or Irish emigrants to the British Canadas?—I know of none.—The voyage is generally shorter?—The voyage is shorter, with a much milder climate, and less liable to those boisterous storms that men going to Canada suffer so much from, when they are kept below in bad weather; they are almost certain to have fever.—But in ordinary weather the immigrants would be comfortable on deck; it rarely happens that they are obliged to be battened down under the hatches, as they are frequently on the voyage from Great Britain to Canada?—There is no question that the more they are on deck, in the open air, the better it is for them.—

Number of immigrants from Madagascar.

If you could have 40,000 free labourers imported from Madagascar, at an expense of 2 l. or 2 l. 10 s. a head, as this Committee was informed that they could be imported at in any number from Madagascar, you would then be in
a much

a much better condition to go on with your cultivation, and compete with slave-grown articles?—There is no question of it; the more you reduce the cost of wages, which is an important item of cost, the cheaper you can produce the sugar.—In point of fact, the whole question is a question of the price of labour?—Six-twelfths of it; fully half goes in wages and provisions. I believe the estimate of the crop of the year terminating in 1847 was 65,000 tons:—We begin in July; the crop that has begun to arrive in England is the crop of 1847; we have not any return of that; the crop of 1846, which finishes in the end of 1846 or the beginning of 1847, what we term the crop of 1846 and 1847, was 65,000 tons.—Did not Sir William Gomm make some estimate of the value of the crop?—He did; that is the crop which I speak of, which has arrived and been sold. Sir William Gomm writes from the Mauritius on the 6th of March 1847: ‘The balance of revenue over expenditure of 1845 was 16,816*l.*; that of 1846 has increased to 50,589*l.*’ ‘The gross value of colonial exports within the year exceeds that of its imports by no less a sum than 479,415*l.* by the official returns; the former,’ that is, colonial exports, ‘amounted to 1,622,495*l.*; the latter,’ its imports, ‘to 1,143,080*l.*, forming a striking contrast to the relative amount of these two valuations in the five years immediately preceding.’ I should wish to explain a discrepancy which, unfortunately for the realization of his figures, Sir William Gomm has fallen into in the estimate; he estimates the value of the crop in the Mauritius at 26*l.* per ton upon 65,000 tons; that crop has realized here about 16*l.* or 17*l.*; the deduction, therefore, will be somewhere about 600,000*l.* or 700,000*l.* from this beautiful report of his. He concludes that, because the valuation there is 25*l.* or 26*l.* or 27*l.* per ton, he may take it for granted that the colony must be in a very flourishing position, and that its exports exceed its imports by about 500,000*l.* sterling; whereas the result will be *about 500,000*l.* the other way.*—What is the date of that report?—The 6th of March 1847.—With which loss you reckon the Bill of 1846 may be debited?—Precisely; there is no other reason in the world; there was no rash or improvident speculation on their part; they met the call of the country, and they exerted themselves to the utmost to produce sugar for the supply of the English market free of the taint of slavery, and they have been met by the Bill of 1846, which has dashed their hopes to the ground, not for this year alone, but it has thrown the colony back for years; it is a question whether it can ever recover; protection, were it even given now, would not replace the losses they have sustained, *and instead of showing a revenue to the island, if this goes on, there will be none.*—Have you any accounts of the cost of cultivation and the profits derived from slave-grown sugar in Cuba?—I have not.—Have you any such account from Havannah?—I have a Price Current from Havannah of the 8th of January 1848, which states, ‘The production has far exceeded that of any previous year, and the prices obtained by the planters have been so highly remunerative, that they are enabled to adopt every means for the further extension of their crops. The little sugar left for sale at the date of last report has been disposed of at lower prices, and our quotations now range as follows: Cucuruchos, 15*s.* 7*d.*; ordinary yellows, 16*s.* 2*d.* to 16*s.* 9*d.*; middling yellows, 17*s.* 4*d.* to 17*s.* 11*d.*; fine yellows, 18*s.* 6*d.* to 19*s.* 8*d.*; Florete yellows, 20*s.* 3*d.* to 21*s.* 5*d.*; ordinary whites, 20*s.* 10*d.* to 21*s.* 5*d.*; middling whites, 22*s.* 7*d.*; fine and Florete, 23*s.* 9*d.* That is the circular of Drake Brothers & Company, Havannah, which is the best and largest house in Havannah.—Do you think that the repeal of the Navigation Laws would entirely set the Mauritius planters upon their legs again?—*It would not be the slightest boon to us as Mauritius planters.* I had the honour to form one of a deputation to the Prime Minister; the interview was asked for by the Mauritius Association with the Prime Minister; Lord Grey was present, and subsequently in the course of the audience the Chancellor of the Exchequer came in; several gentlemen who formed the deputation addressed their Lordships, and I took the liberty of saying a few words in these terms: ‘I wish to say a few words in elucidation of Sir George Larpent’s statement,’—Sir George Larpent had preceded me in addressing the Prime Minister,—‘that the question of Sugar cultivation does not come under the category of free trade; it is well known that the British planter works under the system of restrictive laws on labour imposed on him by the Government, and that in the colonies there are stipendiary magistrates whose duty it is to watch the proprietors and prevent any infringe-

Proportion of cost of sugar expended in wages.

Error in Sir William Gomm’s calculations.

Cost of sugar in Cuba.

Repeal of the Navigation Laws not the slightest boon to the Mauritius.

Mr. Hunter's address to the Ministers at a deputation comparing free labour and slave labour, and costs of freight.

ment of these laws ; the planters cannot work their men more than nine hours per day ; whilst on the other hand it is equally well known that the slave proprietor works his slaves without there being the slightest controlling power over him ; it is only self-interest which operates on him in exacting work from his slaves ; he works them as much as their physical powers will endure, stopping short only when he perceives there is a prospect of his slave sinking under his labour, and that he, the proprietor, would be obliged to purchase another slave. This labour is exacted under the power of the lash, and is, therefore, a continuous and regular system of labour so essential in sugar cultivation ; it endures in certain seasons from 12 to 14 hours per day, and during crop time 16 or 18 hours per day ; and that the slaves are worked on the Sundays the same as week days. Now it must be clear to any unbiased person that if the expenses of the keep of both classes of the labourers be equal (a position which I contest, the advantage being on the side of the slave proprietor), that the slave-holder who obtains, on an average, 14 hours of actual labour per day, must produce his sugar nearly 80 per cent. as respects labour cheaper than the British planter working under the system of free labour and restricted hours, and can therefore undersell the latter in the British Market. Another point on which I wish to remark is, the supposed boon which we are to receive in amelioration of our condition, by the abrogation of the Navigation Laws, thereby allowing British produce to be imported into the United Kingdom in foreign bottoms ; now, I most distinctly assert, that to the Mauritius this proposed change will not be of the slightest advantage ; I have been a shipper of sugar for 20 years from Mauritius to Great Britain, during which period it has only once occurred that I have paid 5 *l.* per ton on British ships ; two years I have paid the low rate of 25 *s.* ; several years 2 *l.* 10*s.*, 3 *l.* 10*s.* and 4 *l.* 10*s.*, and I am certain that during the whole 20 years the average was not 3 *l.* 10*s.* ; now, I am aware that the rates of charter for foreign ships to proceed and bring a cargo of sugar from Brazil, Cuba, and Porto Rico to Europe, runs from 2 *l.* 10*s.* to 3 *l.* per ton, and this voyage out and home occupies a period of about 110 days on the average ; viz., 40 days out, 30 days in port, and 40 days home : if, therefore, I offered a charter to a foreign ship to proceed to Mauritius for a cargo of sugar, I could not expect that the owner would hire his ship to me at the same rate as he obtained for the first-mentioned ports ; he would, on the contrary, say to me, that for the first voyage of 110 days, he obtained the average rate of 2 *l.* 15*s.*, and therefore for a voyage to Mauritius which would occupy 230 days, viz., 100 days out, 30 lay days, and 100 days home, he could not let his vessel for less than the proportionate rate of 110 days to 230 days, or about 4 *l.* 15*s.* to 5 *l.* 10*s.* per ton ; now, therefore, my Lord, I most decidedly repeat, that any change in the Navigation Laws will not confer the slightest relief or benefit to the Mauritius planters in conveying their produce to Europe ; whatever benefit such a change might bestow on other parties, to Mauritius it will confer none ; therefore, I protest against its being considered a boon to the Mauritius.—The Committee now come to the grievances you are under as respects taxation ; the island of the Mauritius has no other means of paying its taxation except by its produce of sugar, has it ?—None whatever ; there is no other produce raised in the island.—The taxes amount to 300,000 *l.* a year ?—Including immigration ; for the civil budget and the taxes brought upon it for military purposes, it amounts to 240,000 *l.*—That is 4 *l.* a ton upon 60,000 tons ?—Yes.—Of which sum about 30,000 *l.* is expended upon the police ?—Perhaps a little more upon the police establishment, which may be said to be the most inefficient in any part of Her Majesty's dominions.—The Committee have been told, that the island of the Mauritius is about the same size as the Isle of Wight ; is not it about half as big again ?—It is 60 miles long, and 30 miles at its extreme width.—How far are you from Bourbon ?—I have seen Bourbon from the hills above Port Louis. Look at our neighbouring colony of Bourbon, we find it enjoying a protection of at least 10*s.* per cwt. in the French markets, with an expenditure barely half of ours ; their governor at 2400 *l.* per annum, whilst ours has 7,000 *l.* per annum ; all other officials on the same ratio ; and I ask, is it fair and honest to us to throw open our home market to these *foreigners*, and cause us to compete with them in it, when there is such a difference in their taxation ? It is not free trade, it is not fair play—an Englishman's boast. When we had the protection in our own market, we did not call out against paying our officials beyond the rates

Taxation of the Mauritius.

Comparison of Bourbon and the Mauritius.

rates paid in the foreign colonies, nor against the colonial allowance to Her Majesty's troops; but if free trade is to prevail, and this system of reduction is to be forced on us as planters, then our civil government officers and military officers must also suffer the consequence of such a change; they must be drawn down to the level of foreigners as well as ourselves, and thereby much reduce our ancient feelings of nationality. It would be much better for me to have my estates now either in Cuba, Brazil, or Bourbon, than in Mauritius, a sorry conclusion to be obliged to come to.—You stated that Bourbon had a protective duty of 10s. a hundred weight; that is against all sugar imported under the French flag, is it not?—Not only do they protect their own western colonies against the foreigner, but they protect the Isle of Bourbon to the extent of 2s. against their own West India colonies; according to the distance of the colonies from the mother country, France gives some additional protection, which is equivalent to the supposed freight that would be charged in addition.—It is to put them on an equality?—To put Bourbon on an equality with Guadaloupe and Martinique. —Have you not great cause to complain of the enormous duty on the registration and transfer of land by mortgage and sale?—It is very heavy, it amounts to two per cent. for simple registration, and one per cent. for transfer, what is termed “inscription;” and the notarial charges are one per cent. more, which amounts to about four per cent. upon the declared value of the property; and if a certain period elapses before those forms are gone through, it is doubled; instead of being three per cent., it is six per cent.—There is the expense of the garrison also?—That which falls upon the civil budget is the allowance to the officers of Her Majesty's troops, which is termed “colonial allowance;” it used to be 20,000 £.; by the last return it is reduced to 16,000 £. Another charge which falls upon the colony is 5,000 £. a year, which is annually charged upon the civil budget, for keeping up the fortifications and military posts. Another charge, which is exceedingly onerous and unjust, is the charge made upon the taxation of the Mauritius for keeping up the islands of Seychelles, amounting to 5,000 £. The Seychelles are 1,000 miles' distance from the Mauritius, and we derive no benefit from them; they were kept by the British Government at the cession of the island, for the purpose of preventing them falling into the hands of slavers or pirates; but why should the Mauritius civil budget be charged for the expense of that which may properly be termed a police station? You may just as well charge it to the government of Bombay. Those three items form a total of nearly 30,000 £. a year.—Are there not some sinecures also charged upon the island of Mauritius?—There are pensions.—What are those pensions?—I forget exactly the amount; they are according to the service of the officers retiring, so much in proportion for the number of years they have served in the colony.—In the appointment of those officers, the colony has no voice, has it?—They are all appointed by the Colonial Office.—The whole of this enormous expenditure of 300,000 £. a year is at the disposal of the Colonial Office, except the immigration tax of 1 £. a ton?—Yes.—Is not the cost of that largely enhanced by the unnecessary expense created by the Colonial Office restrictions on the importation of immigrants?—Yes; it is a most expensive machinery; it amounts, as nearly as possible, upon 6,000 men (which is the number it is limited to just now) to nearly a pound a man; the cost of the fixed establishment in Calcutta is about 2,500 £. a year; the cost of the fixed establishment in the Mauritius and the Protectorate Officer is about 2,500 £. a year; so that the charge of those fixed establishments is nearly 5,000 £. upon the introduction of 6,000 men.—What is the population of the Mauritius?—From 150,000 to 160,000.—What do you estimate the number of vagabonds to be in that island?—It has been estimated variously from 10,000 to 12,000.—The Committee have been informed that they amount altogether to 36,000?—If you take the importation of Indians from first to last, it is, I think, by this return up to 1845, about 60,000 or 70,000 people; and I see by the return in 1845 there were about 35,000 of all classes at work, showing that there must be about 30,000 people who have not remained cultivating the soil, gone into other occupation, or squatted. There is a part close to the town under the Signal Mountain, within gun-shot of the Government-House, which is Government ground, and it is now studded with small cottages, which are a receptacle and harbour for all such people; they pay no ground-rent and no taxes whatever; nothing towards the support of the colony.—Do you conceive that if there were rigorous vagrant laws and industrial

Population of the Mauritius; number of vagabonds.

Number of squatters.

Squatters close to Government house.

industrial laws enacted, those 12,000 vagabonds might be set to work?—I have not the slightest doubt of it.—If such were the case, would not there be ample labour in the colony now for all the wants of the planters?—I think so; and I think so long as the present law which directs the relations between master and servant exists, the same bad results will be the consequence; the law to which I allude is the Order in Council of the 7th of September 1838; that law is administered by the stipendiary magistracy; it is a law by which there is no appeal given to the superior courts in the island; a man may bring a false complaint, he may desire to extort money under false pretences by the subornation of witnesses; provided the magistrate issues his warrant and judgment according to the form laid down in the schedule, no superior court, not even the Governor of the island, can touch the case. That law I consider to be one of the great evils existing to the well working of the immigrant population in the island.—Though there is a Legislative Council, practically the Government is despotic, is not it?—I will explain the nature of the Legislative Council; there are eight official members, including the Governor, who names seven unofficial members, making 15 in all. An unofficial member has not the power of the initiative; he cannot lay upon the table any proposal for the reduction of taxation till it has the previous consent of the Governor; consequently the Governor has it in his power to allow it to be debated or not; the Governor has the casting vote in the 15, making 16 votes, of which that gives nine to the Government, and seven to the popular party; it is not a popular party, in fact, because they are appointed by the Government; therefore cases may occur in which the unofficial members voting against a measure when the Governor's preponderating vote may be obliged to be thrown in to carry it, then the measure is technically said to be passed with the consent of the Legislative Council; the whole of the unofficial members voting against it, and the Governor's casting vote alone carrying the question; yet in the form of the despatch, it is said "to be with the consent and advice of the Legislative Council," that such and such a law has been passed. It is a mockery altogether; I would much rather see it wholly in the hands of an Executive, if there is to be no extension or change.—In point of fact, the colony does not hold the purse-strings?—It has no control over them whatever, because though the votes may be given, yet they are overruled by the preponderating votes of the Government.—What is the case as to the eight who are Government men?—They are all officials; I can enumerate them.—Do you know what salaries they receive?—Nothing, as members of the Council.—What salaries do they receive respectively in other ways?—The Governor has 7,000 *l.* a year; the commandant of the garrison is next in the list.—Has he any salary beyond that of his military rank?—No; the officials have no salary as members of the Council.—When they get salaries, they are paid out of the revenues of the island, those different officers, are they not?—I cannot exactly say; I think the chief secretary has 2,000 *l.* a year; I cannot tax my memory with the exact figures.—Is it your opinion that, as far as the beneficial government of the colony is concerned, as far as regards the interests of the sugar planters, an expenditure of 50,000 *l.* would meet all the wants of the colony fully as well as they are met by the expenditure of 300,000 *l.* which is now levied?—I hardly think that it could be brought down to 50,000 *l.*—What do you think it could be brought down to?—I think 100,000 *l.* a year could do everything that was required, and that that might be raised in a very simple manner.—Does that include immigration?—No; I consider 250,000 *l.* to be the civil budget.—Do not you think that less than 100,000 *l.* would meet the requirements of the civil government of the Mauritius?—I should rather at once begin with that sum; and if it were found that it could be done for less, if the Legislative Council had the power of controlling it, it would do it.—What do you say is the expense of the police?—From 30,000 *l.* to 33,000 *l.* a year.—Have you ever formed any opinion of the diminution that might be made in that portion of the expenditure, consistently with improved efficiency?—Certainly; I think that might be reduced to 10,000 *l.* a year if you had efficient men from this country, men accustomed to the police of the metropolis; 100 or 120 men of that description, who might be got here perhaps at 60 *l.* or 70 *l.* a year, would do more good than all the present police together. The police, at present, is more an office of correspondence than a detective force; that is the evil of the police establishment.—What do you mean by

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Stipendiary law.

Legislative Council.

An unofficial member cannot propose a reduction of taxation without consent of the Government.

Amount of taxation which might be reduced.

Inefficiency and expense of the police.

an office of correspondence?—Giving licences, and answering letters to parties in the country; I speak of the Port Louis police, the head of the establishment.—Do you apprehend, if there were proper laws, there would be any difficulty in putting down vagrancy in the Mauritius?—None whatever; it arises from this: the new people, as they come in, find that the old people have a sort of loose way of conducting themselves, and they follow a bad example.—There are three regiments of infantry stationed at the Mauritius, are not there?—Yes.—Is there any part of the inhabited portion of the island that has not a military dépôt within seven miles?—I do not think it is more than seven miles.—Do the Coolies and the negro population squat in the mountains?—On the verge of the mountains.—If there were any resistance to the police, the police would be able to fall back upon the military, would they not?—Certainly; but I apprehend nothing of the kind will take place with that class of people.”

“Did you find in those days there were any complaints as to low wages?—None whatever; on that subject the Committee cannot do better than take the statement in this report; the five years’ contract worked so well, that the men would feel much more comfortable; ‘they have no object,’ the Report says, ‘in taking care of their dwellings,’ when they have but one year’s engagement; ‘they even pull the thatch out of the roof, and the stakes out of the fences for fuel; they are ragged and slovenly in their dress, and uncleanly in their persons. Formerly, when men were engaged for five years on an estate, they took pride in their camp, and in their personal appearance; on some estates they wore a peculiar dress, and had a particular badge by which they were known, and an emulation existed among them, particularly on their public festivals, to rival and outshine their neighbours. Thus the Indians under a yearly engagement amass less money, have less means, and less comforts; the distinction between them, and the men under a five-years’ engagement, is very marked; the latter are looked upon as the “aristocrats” upon an estate; the Creole women will form connexions with them readily, but much less frequently with the new men; they become attached to the estates and to their employers, re-engage with them freely, or serve without an engagement;’ that is the report upon the working of the one-year’s engagement, and the five years’ engagement.—Do you suppose, if you were now to go to India, and offer the men an engagement for five years, you would get them?—I have not the smallest doubt of it.—They would come willingly for five years?—Not only that, but they would pass the engagement with me in India; they would allow it to be registered in the Mauritius, and would serve their five years, and the benefits to their moral habits and their physical powers would be very great indeed.—Do you imagine they would be contented during the whole of that time?—I firmly believe so.—How does it happen, then, that they are very frequently in the habit of changing now?—They are under one year’s contract.—You think you could not compete with Cuba under any system except slavery?—I do not think even the five-years’ engagement is, in point of the work to be done by these men, to be compared with the slave under the lash.—Under the one-year engagements and the five years, have the wages been regularly paid?—Constantly.—You have had no complaint from that source?—Nothing has arisen from that; there have been one or two instances where the wages have not been paid, but I speak generally; it is impossible to say, in any society or in any country, but that there may be complaints of wages not being paid; but that forms no ground for any charge against the cultivator.—In that calculation, is anything put down for the interest of capital?—Nothing.—Do you think that is reasonable?—I think it is just in this way; we received compensation for about 40 per cent. and if you charge the interest upon what you receive, you have a right to charge the interest the other way, upon what you do not receive; and it would tell against you in this way, you would have interest charged upon the compensation of 30 £., and you would have interest charged again upon the non-payment of that portion of your capital which has never been paid, and is never likely to be paid, the 40 £., so that the balance of interest would be against you.—If you invested 10,000 £. in slaves, can you reasonably say that in calculating the cost of their labour, the interest upon the capital laid out should not be included?—I take the whole return to me as the interest for my money; the balance of the account current at the end of the year went as interest.—The question refers to that part of the capital which was laid out in slaves?—It was laid out

Comparison of five and one year’s contract.

Coolies would form five years’ engagements, and would sign the contract in India.

Wages have been regularly paid.

No interest of capital is charged in the account of free and slave labour, because the greater portion of the value of the slave remains as a charge on the estate.

in the purchase of the whole estate, slaves and all.—If you had 100 slaves on an estate, how many of them worked, including women and children?—That varied very much; sometimes those that did not work were 20 per cent.; sometimes they were 25 per cent. upon the band.”——“Do you make any rum on those properties?—We have commenced to make rum; and there is another grievance; we are beginning to find that it would be better to convert the lower qualities of sugar into rum; but there is a tax of 300*l.* sterling put upon every still in the Mauritius. Imagine for a moment a tax of 300*l.* put upon a cotton factory at Manchester.”——“Whether that is brought about by a repeal of the Navigation Laws or anything else, a reduction of freight is a great advantage to you?—Yes; if it is a reduction of 10*s.*, it will be an advantage of 6*d.* a hundredweight; if it is 1*l.* a ton, it will be an advantage of 1*s.* a hundredweight. If you go into the market to charter a vessel to go to the Mauritius, you could not get one on the same rate to go there as to Porto Rico or Brazil. —Were you to be understood that the addition to the price that is required to make your business profitable is as much as 10*s.*?—A penny a pound is what we have asked for.—If that could be brought about in any way, you think the Mauritius would flourish?—That is to say, if you secure 1*d.* a pound more to us than we have now.—You have no complaint, have you, about the want of labour?—Our complaint is not as to the number of labourers.—Since emancipation, you have had Coolies there?—We have had Coolies, but we have not had a proper power over them, so as to make them useful and industrial men to us.—You require some change in your Vagrant Law?—Decidedly; as it is of no use to go on importing new men, unless those that are in the island are forced justly to fulfil the contract which they took in hand. —Do you mean to represent that any change of that sort depends upon the Government in the colony, or upon the Legislature here?—It depends upon the Government at home; it is a Crown colony.

Heavy tax on stills in the Mauritius.

New vagrant law required.

Government are now feeding the people in the Mauritius.

“The Government are now, through India, feeding the population of the Mauritius, just exactly as they fed the people of Ireland during the famine, are they not?—Yes; in the event of private enterprise failing, Government step in.—Is that the case now?—I have not heard of any instance of the kind.—Unless this money had been advanced, the crop could not have been taken off?—The great risk was that a portion of it would not be taken off. The news of these failures arrived in the Mauritius towards the end of November or the beginning of December, when the crop was not finished.—And this advance of 9*l.* a ton was to enable the planters to take off the crop?—To finish their crop, and prevent the great sacrifice that must have occurred in the event of their selling it there.—If they had not been able to take off their crop, it would have been because they could not have continued to pay their labourers?—Yes.—The practical effect would have been, that if they had not been supplied with this loan to enable them to take off their crop, there would have been no wages for the labourers, and the labourers must have starved?—As long as there is sugar there, the stipendiary magistrates can step in and take it for the payment of wages.—The sugar would have been still in the cane-field; therefore there would have been no sugar to seize?—They would then seize their mules or their carts; they have the privilege over the moveables of the estate.—With respect to the interest upon the capital invested in slaves, you have been asked whether there was not six guineas interest, at the rate of nine per cent., which ought to be charged to the expense of slave labour, in addition to the amount which you gave in; of the 70*l.* which you took into consideration, is not there 40*l.* which is unpaid, and which is to remain for ever unpaid?—Yes.—Therefore, nine per cent. upon 40*l.* remains a permanent charge, which can never be wiped off, against the planter, let him have free labour or no labour at all?—No question of it; and, besides that, nine per cent. ought not to be charged, because I have money at five per cent.—The slave was valued at 70*l.*, but you were only paid 31*l.*?—That is so.—Consequently, if that charge is a fair charge to take into consideration, so far as the 40*l.* goes, it still remains to be defrayed by the produce of the labourer?—Certainly.—It is a charge for ever upon the estate?—It is.—You said that the rate of interest upon mortgaged estates was nine per cent., but the rate of interest charged to British capitalists who invested their money from England was not nine per cent.?—The amount charged by the accounts current against me is five per cent.”

£. 40 out of 70*l.*, former value of the slave, remains as a charge on the estate.

The next Witness Your Committee called before them connected with Mauritius was Mr. James Blyth, a partner in the firm of H. D. and James Blyth & Greene, extensive merchants and shipowners in the City of London, and of the firm of Blyth, Brothers & Co., Port Louis, in the Mauritius. Mr. Blyth resided in the Mauritius from September 1830 to January 1839, and during the last years of his residence was a member of the Legislative Council. He gives in the following statement of the amount of exports from Great Britain to the Mauritius, from the year 1840 to the year 1847,* stating that a great part of that trade is carried on through their hands as merchants.

Exports from Great Britain to the Mauritius of British and Irish produce and manufactures, from the year 1840 to the year 1847.

Export from Great Britain to the Mauritius.

	£.
1840	325,812
1841	340,140
1842	244,922
1843	258,014
1844	285,650
1845	345,059
1846	310,231
1847	203,340

He states that the passing of the Act of 1846 alarmed their firm, and they contracted their business, as they thought it was impossible for the Mauritius to compete with the slave-holding countries; that he himself went out to Brazil and was the first to carry out the news of the passing of the Act of 1846 to Rio Janeiro; that he purchased a cargo of sugar in Rio Janeiro at a price which left the sugar laid down in London, the total charges with the exchange included, costing from 22 s. to 22 s. 6 d. a cwt. fine yellow sugar, he should say certainly 2 s. a cwt. in quality better than the average of Mauritius sugar, but it came in as Brazilian sugar, at the low foreign duty of 21 s. The result of this was, that considering that the market price of sugar at Port Louis was 20 s. a cwt., with 2 s. export duty, and an average difference of 1 s. in the exchange, making 23 s. on board to the Planter, circumstanced as they were, being 12,000 or 13,000 miles from England, instead of 6,000 or 7,000 miles, the distance between Brazil and England, paying a high price for labour and so on, they could not cultivate to advantage, and they could not compete with the Sugar of Brazil; and he immediately resolved to reduce his capital invested in the Mauritius trade. In 1845, the amount of their credits and capital invested in the Mauritius, was between 180,000 l. and 200,000 l. exclusive of the shipping and other property. But they contracted this to the extent of one-third. In consequence of the declarations which the Government made on the 3d of February, their house wrote out on the following Monday by the overland mail, withdrew their credits previously existing in Bengal, under which their correspondents sent rice and other grain on joint account with themselves, and stopped by the outward mail of the 7th of February the advances of money to enable the native merchants to send out rice. They also sent out instructions to discontinue advances on three estates belonging to highly respectable gentlemen in this country, to which they had theretofore been accustomed to make them. He states that the fall in sugar between January and December 1847 was 13 l. a ton; but admits that the highest price of 1847 arose from exaggerated expectations of a demand for distilleries and breweries. Your Committee have already referred to Mr. Blyth's evidence in respect to Messrs. Reid, Irving & Company's estates. Mr. Blyth says, that the Mauritius is from seven to ten days' sail from Madagascar; and upon being asked whether he believes that if permitted to obtain Free Labourers from Madagascar, there would be an ample supply of them, he says from the great population of Madagascar there is no doubt Free Labour could be obtained by negotiation between our Government and the government of Madagascar. He complains that they are forbidden to obtain labourers both from the East Coast of Africa, which is between 14 and 20 days' sail, as well as from Madagascar, which is seven or ten days' sail, and are consequently

Mr. Blyth, being alarmed by the Act of 1846, went to the Mauritius, and in Brazil found he could land sugar from Brazil in London at less than it cost to deliver it on board ship in the Mauritius, and consequently determined to reduce the capital invested in the Mauritius trade.

Discontinued advances to Mauritius estates.

Madagascar.

Amount of protection
required.

driven to obtain inferior labourers from Madras and Calcutta ; Calcutta being 40 days' sail, and Madras 25 days' sail. He says, the result of the best consideration which he can give to this subject is, that the Mauritius cannot compete with slave-grown sugar, under the present protection, but that under a 10*s.* protective duty, with a certain amount of immigration, it would be in a very prosperous condition, provided those advantages were accompanied with a considerable diminution of the Colonial expenses, which are very large. Being asked if he conceived that the Mauritius required a permanent protection of 10*l.* a ton to enable it to compete with the slave-grown sugar of Cuba and Brazil, Mr. Blyth answered, " If I made use of the expression permanent, which I do not remember doing, I should correct myself in saying that ; I would desire it for a certain number of years, five or seven years, during which period I should hope the Government would aid in the introduction of a sufficient number of labourers to reduce wages, and thus put the colony on a footing to compete with the cheap labour of Brazil and Cuba." Having said that a large quantity of cheap labour may be obtained from Madagascar, he is asked if he has ever been there ; he answers, " No." He is then asked the following questions :

Madagascar.

" Do you know what parts of Madagascar it could be obtained from ?—An experiment was made before I left the Mauritius to obtain labourers from Madagascar ; men were brought up, though in contravention of the laws of the island, with cargoes of cattle, and eight or ten would come in each ship. A very fine athletic race of men they were ; but the local government, acting no doubt under orders from home, considered that it might be construed into a sort of slave trade, and discouraged the introduction of those people.—Do you believe that free labourers might be obtained there ?—I believe that they would be obtainable, but it must be the subject of negotiation between Great Britain and the Queen of Madagascar. But I understand, though I speak from no personal knowledge of my own, that there is a tribe called the Saccalavas, at the north end of the island, who are very well disposed to migrate to the Mauritius, and that they would be an equally good class of labourers to those we have from Tamatave.—Do you know whether slavery exists in that part of the island ?—I am not aware that slavery does exist.—Do you know whether it exists in Madagascar at all ?—No. My impression is, that it does not exist except in this sense, that the unfortunate natives appear to be slaves of the Government, and to be coerced and made to do government work ; but they are not slaves to each other. I believe there is no system of slavery such as existed with us.—If they are obtained, do you imagine they will have to be bought from the Government ?—My own feelings would revolt against the idea of purchasing men for any purpose.—Do you think they could be got without ?—*I think they could, under treaty ; the Mauritius used to pay an annual sum of 5,000*l.* as a present to the Queen, to permit our trade in bullocks ; and I think under such a regulation the Queen of Madagascar would very likely open that island to the Mauritius, for the purposes of procuring labour ; and I think that would be one of the readiest means of introducing a degree of civilization into that great island, possessed as it is of nearly 6,000,000 inhabitants, or at least 5,000,000. It would be a great advantage in that case, that Madagascar should be opened to the Mauritius.—Whether they are free or not you have no personal knowledge ?—I am not well informed. While a member of the Legislative Council, at the Mauritius, I suggested to the Government that, with a view to relieve the colony from the diminished amount of labourers, the colonists should purchase two steam vessels of sufficient power to keep up a continual intercourse between the two islands ; that those vessels should be kept up at the expense of the Government, and that they should, in fact, form a steam bridge, by which the natives of Madagascar should be allowed to come and to go whenever they pleased, free either way, and as they arrived and acquired a certain amount of civilization, and a certain amount of that which they would care more about, money, they might be allowed to return ; and in that way, instead of the description of labourers which the island has had hitherto, *we should have had a class consisting of the families of those natives ; the young ones would have become settled in the island, and we should then have had, in a few years time, an indigenous population ; whereas the present labourers, as soon as they have acquired a certain amount of money, return to their native country and to**

their

their families.—At what price do you suppose labourers could be introduced from Madagascar?—Supposing the government of Madagascar to be willing, for a small annual tribute, in the shape of a present, or some other mode of satisfying the interests of Government, I should say the cost would be merely that of keeping up one or two steamers to bring the people to and fro; they would seek labour, I think, with us.—You would have them come without engagement?—I should say it would be most desirable, seeing that they are a class of persons not at all unlikely to remain quite useless without some engagement in a new place, to subject them to an engagement for a certain period, such as might be considered sufficient to attach them to their new masters.—If this course would be so proper and so favourable, why have the Government hitherto refused to allow labourers to be so brought in?—I have understood that the Government were afraid of its being considered a sort of covert slave trade, and that other nations might regard it with jealousy. It is impossible for me to say what were the motives which induced our Government to take that course, but such is my impression.—Do you know any part of the east coast of Africa where free negroes could be obtained?—I believe throughout the length of the east coast of Africa labourers might be obtained; but the Colonial-office has some very valuable information collected by the late Mr. Sullivan, who went down at the expense of the colony for that purpose. I believe he showed clearly that labourers could be obtained as much to the advantage of the labourers as of the colony.”

This principle is now carried out between Ceylon and the Malabar coast.

Free immigrants from the East Coast of Africa.

He is asked: “Can you tell the Committee whether the Coolies already introduced will, the greatest part of them, go back to India or not?—I think they will assuredly; we have been obliged to keep up a continued stream of immigrants, at the rate of 5,000 or 6,000 a year, and even that has not been sufficient, consequent upon those whose engagements have ceased returning to India.—You want to have a new class of labourers?—The same system would do, but I think it is a bad one; I think we should be allowed to obtain labourers from nearer places, and to obtain them cheaper. Calcutta, as the Committee are aware, is a very expensive port for ships; the ships that bring coolies are hired at a great expense consequently, whereas we might obtain labourers nearer and cheaper.”

Coolies return to India.

Mr. Chapman, the senior partner of the firm of Chapman & Barclay, of Port Louis, in Mauritius, was examined, and informed the Committee that he had been a resident from 1830 to Christmas 1846 in the island; that he was co-proprietor and director of seven estates, and agent for 10 or 12 other estates; the seven estates of which he was co-proprietor produced 3,500 to 4,000 tons annually; but his firm received in consignments from various other estates from 8,000 to 10,000 tons annually. He is asked to what he ascribes the fall in the price of sugar. He says: “I ascribe the fall in the price of sugar chiefly to the introduction of about 45,000 tons of foreign sugar into the market for consumption. The Sugar market was affected by the circumstance of the money market during the late season in London, but comparatively little so, inasmuch as the consumption of sugar, while that of almost all other articles has diminished, has increased to the extent of 25,000 tons during the year.”

Mr. Chapman.

Extensive interest of Mr. Chapman in the Mauritius.

Cause of the fall of price in sugar.

He is asked: “Is it your opinion that the present prices will be ruinous to the Mauritius?”—He answers: “I think, under the present system which prevails in the Mauritius, absolutely ruinous.” He is asked: “What is your calculation that the present average cost of Mauritius Sugar, free on board ship in Port Louis, is?”—He answers: “I believe that in a favourable season, and taking the present season to be reasonably favourable, the average cost of the production of the island, taking the estates generally, one with the other, is now about 18*l.* a ton, exclusive of 2*l.* a ton commercial charges, which includes 1*l.* export duty, upon our sugar.”

Mr. Chapman gives in the following estimate of 10 estates, in the year 1846, together with the proceeds, taking the average price of sugar in the London market at its highest standard of 40*s.*:

He is asked, “Have you any note of the days of labour which have been lost upon the Queen Victoria estate?—I have not a correct calculation, but I am sure that in giving a statement of 10 per cent., which upon 400 men is an average of about 1,200 days’ work a month absolutely lost to the property, I am speaking very much within compass.—Since 1843, which was the period

Squatting and vagabondising.

of short contracts, has the character of the industry of the people become changed entirely?—I think, since the change of contracts, the loss to the planter of the labour of the Indian is more than 50 per cent. ; it has decreased in effect fully 50 per cent.—Did vagabondage and demoralization increase?

—It requires to be understood what vagabondage in those colonies means. Our law there constitutes a vagabond only a man who asks alms, who goes about the streets with his person exposed, but it in no way reaches the thousands of men who are living upon the Government land as squatters ; those men contribute in no way to the colony, and by such permitted squatting thousands of persons are enabled to abstract themselves from any labour or useful employment to the public. That is the state of Mauritius at this moment.—They become squatters?—A squatter is supposed to be a person who gets into a wild country, and by industry lives in his own way ; but these people have no overt industry ; it is so little understood how they live, that none of us can account for the thousands of people who are inhabiting the environs of Port Louis, on the Government lands ; we do not know where they can find the means of existence, so little overt means is there of judging how they live.—Are the Committee to understand that nothing of this sort could take place so long as the men were bound under a five years' contract?—The men were settled then : a man engaged to work for five years, and there was a mutual interest between master and man. The man's family became located on the estate ; he had his garden and his stock about him, and he became a parochial resident ; his whole character is now changed from what it was under that system.—Does this idleness, demoralization, and vagabondage among the Coolies date from the period of the short contracts?—Most decidedly ; it has greatly increased under them.—Has the island ever made any efforts to have stringent vagrant laws enacted?—The Legislative Council have been occupied on more than one occasion with the endeavour not to make what would be called, by parties seeking to protect the negro or the coloured man, a stringent law, but to make laws so reasonably binding upon the man with respect to his conduct, as to induce him to become settled, and to give the master sufficient power to keep him within bounds, to a certain extent.—Have those laws been sent home to successive Colonial Offices here, and invariably rejected?—I can only answer for one ; I can answer for one law, passed by the Legislative Council in 1842. One of the principal features was the repression of vagabondage and these daily absences, rendering it compulsory that any man under engagement should not leave his master's estate without a ticket of leave ; that he should be obliged, on passing the police station, to be asked, 'have you your ticket of leave?' That, however, was disallowed, and our men are now enabled to leave their employ. They walk away in bands of 25 or 50, and no man has any right to stop them. It is civil redress you have against the men, and nothing more.

—Are you of opinion that if you were not restricted in the market where you obtain your labour, you might obtain an ample supply of free and excellent labour from Madagascar?—I think we should get a very efficient set of labourers (they are a most efficient people), if our Government were to go earnestly to work with the government of Madagascar. Hitherto the government of Madagascar has been opposed to it, which I consider has always been for the want of some reasonable and proper indemnity given to them in a proper way. If there were an export tax granted to the Queen of Madagascar, or a yearly indemnity of some sort given to them, I have no doubt we should get labourers in abundance.—Is the Mauritius placed under great disadvantages by the bad relations now existing between it and Madagascar?—Very much so ; so much so that we are very nearly deprived of the necessaries of life.—The Mauritius is entirely dependent for its supplies of cattle and meat upon Madagascar?—For live stock generally.—What is the difference in the price of cattle, and the difference in the price of meat, arising out of the quarrel between Great Britain and Madagascar?—We have had no cattle introduced since our communication has been cut off from Madagascar ; we have been driven to fetch bullocks from South Australia and the Cape of Good Hope, so that the price has been raised from the Government contract of 4 *d.*, to 2 *s.* 6 *d.* a pound ; the gentry of the place latterly have not had beef upon their tables at all.—Neither sheep nor cattle will live there?—They will not bear exposure to the sun there, except our colonial cattle.—You have said a great deal about vagabondism ; is it the habit of the planter, in all cases, to pay the wages of the

Rejection of a law for checking squatting by the Home Government

Madagascar

the labourers in cash regularly?—As a positive rule, it is. I do not think there is an instance on record, in the Mauritius, where a labourer has lost one single rupee by the wages not being paid upon the estates; there are cases, from unforeseen circumstances and from misfortunes, in which the wages have fallen into arrear, but always with the knowledge of the magistrate of the district, who has kept his particular lien upon the produce made, and upon the whole plant of the estate, and the first property realized in any form, whether by the sale of sugar or otherwise, has gone to pay the labourers; so that it is my belief that no labourer has ever been wronged out of a dollar, in the form of wages, earned on a sugar estate in the Mauritius.—You say they work by task in the field; what number of hours are they in the habit of working in the day?—You will see men go out in the morning at six o'clock, and come in at 10 and 11, having finished their task.—They will not work after that?—No; they will not work after that.—Do you make any rum?—We have given it up; the taxes upon stills are so enormously heavy that it has been quite out of the question to seek a profit from that; we cannot distil with any advantage.—Was this tax introduced with a view of stopping the distillation of rum?—That was the Government idea very much; it was with a view of stopping the distillation of rum on small estates.—The tax is 300 l. on a still, is not it?—It is.—If labour is not reduced in the Mauritius below what you now have it, do you think you can continue the sugar cultivation successfully at the present scale of expense?—I think with the present quantity of labour, and with our local expenditure, we cannot think of competing with any slave-growing country; it is out of the question, in my opinion; it is certain ruin.—You think that under no circumstances whatever could the Mauritius compete with slave-grown sugar?—Not without moderate protection; the protection may be very moderate; things to result in the same thing must be equal; if our local expenditure be changed, and the character of our labour improved as it ought to be, under sound regulations, a moderate protection would be sufficient for the colonies to equalize the difference between the slave and the freeman.—What do you call “moderate protection”?—I think we cannot do at present with a less protection than 10 s.; but I do not mean to say that, in a few years after we get the new system organized, we might not be subject to some reduction from that amount.—For how long a period would you require this protection of 10 s.?—It depends entirely upon the measures of the Government itself; I do not think we can ever do without some degree of protection; I think it will always be more or less necessary.—Have you been able to arrive at any calculation as to what amount of protection a free-labour colony must require over a slave colony?—I should say if our labour were really placed on an efficient footing, with a reduction of expenditure, we might do with a less protection than 10 s.—Would 5 s. be sufficient?—Five shillings to 6 s. might be sufficient; but I am in earnest with respect to the change of system. With that, I think a moderate protection might be sufficient.—If Government were to set vigorously to work to remove all existing restrictions, how long a period do you think it would take to get things in order?—To get the system fairly at work, from two to three years, I think.—Do you think the planters in the Mauritius would go on with the cultivation of their estates if they had a protection of 10 s. for two or three years?—I think even then we should want the local changes I have spoken of; but at the present moment, I speak it as a positive fact, having still in my own hands the administration of a large number of estates, that the credit of the Mauritius by the existing laws is annihilated in London; we cannot get assistance from London merchants for the purpose of carrying on our production.—What course do you mean to pursue?—I think everything will depend upon the result of the Report of this Committee; we are completely stopped at the present moment; we are selling our sugar in the Mauritius at the best price we can get.—Applying the money you get there to the cultivation of the properties?—Yes.—That in a short time of course must cease?—It will cease most certainly; the principal merchants of this country connected with Mauritius are now in a state of insolvency, though the estates are in a perfect state of production, and complete as to machinery, buildings, &c. One would have thought, therefore, that we should have found houses in London glad to advance money on the cultivation account, but we cannot find them.—You cannot get advances at so much per ton?—No, not to cover the expense of cultivation.—

Wages have been regularly paid.

Heavy tax upon stills.

Amount of protection required.

The existing laws have destroyed the credit of the Mauritius.

Advances cannot be got to cover the expenses of cultivation.

What is the alternative, supposing no remedies are proposed by Government?—The estates will cease to be cultivated.—They will be abandoned altogether?—Yes.—That refers to the estates in your own possession?—Yes, about 20 estates.—What is about the return per acre of your cultivation?—About a ton, I should say; thereabout.—Before this law was put in force of levying 300 l. upon any still, were you able to export rum?—We were; we had commenced distilling on all our estates, but the consumption of rum in the colony has been very great; we have consumed for the most part what we have made.—Then you, in point of fact, considered that the disadvantage of a drunken population was greater than even the loss of the sale of your rum?—At that time there was an impression upon the public mind in the Mauritius, that it was necessary to take some measures to prevent that drunkenness?—Would not a high licence upon every spirit-shop have had a much better effect than a high licence upon the stills?—There is no doubt of it; or any measure calculated to check the retailing of spirits, at the same time accompanied with every facility for manufacturing spirits for export.”

High licence upon spirit shops and retailers of rum recommended.

Sir Geo. Larpent, Bart.

Comparison of the action of the standard as regards Cuba clayed and British plantation sugar.

If malpractices had taken place in regard to immigration, the government of India and Mauritius could have stopped them.

The distresses of the Mauritius arise partly from the effects of vacillating policy.

When recovering from these effects, they were overwhelmed by the Acts of 1846.

Your Committee also examined Sir George Larpent, Bart. He stated that he was proprietor of estates in the Mauritius, consisting of about 3,787 acres, of which 1,500 acres were under cultivation of the cane. Asked to explain his reason why he stated to Lord John Russell that the nominal existing protective duty, between Cuba Sugar and the Mauritius Sugar, was in point of fact a mere delusion; he answered, “I stated that I had been informed upon what I had believed to be competent authority, and I think the samples I have produced (*producing the same*) will bear out the fact, that one cwt. of Cuba Sugar yielded 102 lbs. of white saccharine matter, while Demerara Sugar yielded only 84 lbs., and that therefore the 20 s. protection against the 14 s. was rendered by that means nugatory; the analogy I introduced was that with Demerara Sugar.” He is asked whether he knows what led to the alteration of the system of immigration and contracts, in the year 1838? He answers, “There were statements made to the East India Company through the Government, I believe, which expressed an idea that improper practices had taken place. I do not wish to speak in the slightest degree offensively, but there was a morbid sensibility with regard to introducing labourers for sugar plantations, supposing that they would be treated as slaves, which I think was not justified; and it was a disgrace to the Government of India, and to the Government of the Mauritius, if means could not have been taken to have prevented the improper obtaining of persons to go as labourers to the Mauritius, and of protecting them while they were there. I have always thought that there was a great deal more made of the objections than the circumstances justified; but of course that was the ground upon which the interdiction was made.” Again, he says, in answer to the question put to him, whether he had not suffered great losses, both under Protection and under Free Trade? “Under the whole of the circumstances I have stated. From 1838 to the present time, the vacillation of Parliament, the changes of legislation, and the departure from what was understood to be the system to be adopted during the time we laid out our money, and sent out our machinery, and carried on those works, has been such as to bring these enormous losses upon us. I beg distinctly to say, I do not attribute all the losses to the Act of 1846; but when we were getting out of our difficulties, that Act of 1846 plunged us back again into them.” Asked if a great portion of certain losses which he “wrote off in 1845 to the amount of 95,000 l.” were not to be laid to the account of the harassing regulations of the Colonial Office in regard to the immigration of labourers, and the contracts of the labourers? he answers, “I should say that the greatest part of the loss is to be attributed to the prohibition to import Coolies in 1838, to the cessation of apprenticeship in 1839, and to the inadequate supply of labour till the alteration by the Order in Council in 1842; in point of fact, to keep our estates from being overrun by tropical vegetation, we were obliged to have a small production of sugar and an immense expenditure, and the result was a loss to the extent I have mentioned, or something approaching to it, with perhaps the additional charges which I have mentioned of commission and interest, which ought never to have been charged, because they were never earned.” With respect to the Navigation Laws, he says, “As far as my experience goes, there is no complaint to

to be made of the want of tonnage for the shipment of sugar, or of the high price of freight in the Mauritius; it is not one of those charges which has at all been considered as oppressive to the Mauritius; at the same time every charge is of importance, and the cheaper you can bring it the better. Let every vessel enter into competition for the purpose of reducing the price, that I am perfectly ready to say; *but at the same time I cannot consistently state that I believe the charge of freight is a grievance in the Mauritius.*"

Navigation Law.

Mr. Greene, on the 4th of March, was asked what was the price of Sugar at Havre as compared with London; he answered, that a week or ten days before it was 45 s. long price; which, deducting 15 s. 5 d. French duty, gave a short price of 29 s. 7 d. per cwt. The same description of Mauritius Sugar would have been only worth 24 s. in the London Market; so that Mauritius in the British Market was getting a worse price by 5 s. 7 d. a cwt. (5 l. 11 s. 8 d. a ton) than under French protection she would get in Havre; this disadvantage he showed would be further aggravated to the extent of 6 l. per ton, when the present protective duty of 6 s. a cwt. against foreign duty came to be equalised under the descending scale, in 1851. The disadvantage then to the Mauritius as a British Colony, as compared with the French Colony of Bourbon, would be 11 l. 11 s. 8 d. a ton. This, upon the actual produce of the small Island of Mauritius, would, he computed, be equal to an annual loss of 600,000 l. sterling to the Planters.

Benjamin Buck
Greene, Esq.

Comparative prices of
Bourbon Sugar, in
Havre and Mauritius
Sugar in London.

David Charles Guthrie, Esq. was examined. He said that he was directly and indirectly acting for parties possessing 19 estates, producing 11,386 tons of sugar. He states that of those 19 estates, the firm to which he belongs proposes "to carry on five estates, producing 3,750 tons of sugar," which he looks upon "as first class estates." With respect to six other estates, which he places in "a second class," computed to produce 4,734 tons of sugar, he says that those estates "are placed in abeyance." But with respect to nine estates, which he places in "a third class," producing 2,902 tons, "he has desired that no further advances upon his account should be allowed." With respect to "the first class estates," he says that under the circumstances of his account, and the state of the finances of those estates, and of their produce "they may be able to fight a little longer." With respect to the second class, they are those which will depend entirely upon the question of the result, very possibly, of this Committee, or the steps of the British Government. If no relief is afforded, his present view is, that he will make no further advances upon them. Asked if, of the large firms connected with the Mauritius, his is not the only one that still remains? he answers, "There were five large importers; out of that five, four unhappily have gone. That I maintain my position," he says, "may be ascribed to this, that I had not been so long engaged in it." Quoting the Protest of the House of Lords against the Bill of 1846, he says, "Such distress leads to discontent, and to ultimate separation and loss of allegiance." "Do not despise this last prophecy; it may come to be, like the previous points, too truly fulfilled. Mauritius is a very small speck of land, but of very large importance as a post both for our Army and Navy."

David Charles
Guthrie, Esq.

Extensive interest of
Mr. Guthrie in the
Mauritius.

Importance of the
allegiance of the
Mauritius.

Mr. Guthrie says that, "With taxation beyond bearing (equal to 6 l. per ton on the produce of the Mauritius), low prices, consequent on the opposition and competition of foreign slave-labour Sugars, have reduced the Mauritius to almost universal bankruptcy. I believe that at this moment there is hardly a planter in the island of the Mauritius who would not be very glad, under the prospects of the law of 1846, to find himself a French colonist, or to remove his position to the adjoining island, which is in sight from the Mauritius on a fine day." He is asked "If the result of his deliberations upon what is necessary to be done for the Mauritius is, that we must raise the price of sugar a penny a pound?" He answers "You must give us a protection of a penny a pound. Instead of raising, we hope that it will ultimately tend to reduce the price of sugar." He is then asked, "If the price of sugar falls, how will that benefit you?" He replies, "I cannot help it if it does, except that if we now grow too much, we must grow less. I think protection is perfectly essential at this moment; they are entirely prostrated; they have neither money nor credit, and I think the very fact of your giving them protection at this moment is needful on both points. *If you put them in credit, they*

Mauritius reduced to
bankruptcy by heavy
taxation and low price.

Mauritius if in credit
could get money.

will get money." Again, he is asked if he has presented this formal request of a protection of 10 s., as the relief that he would think necessary for the Colonies? He answers, "We have named the lowest protection that I think we could get re-established on. My opinion is that if we were re-established in credit, and if the Government here would issue orders to the Colonial Government to assist the colonists, and instead of neutralizing the exertions of the labourers, would rather stimulate them, I look upon it that that would be one of the most important things that could be done. I think that free labourers should be made to labour; not under slavish coercion, but under reasonable restraint; that every man should perform a man's labour; that they should not be spoiled, nor be led to suppose that the laws of the country were made for them alone. My feeling is that the sentiment is general, that there has been very little inducement given by the public authorities to lead the labourers to work." In answer to another question he says, "The Mauritius did very fairly from 1834 to 1838; and then when you abolished the apprenticeship, and simultaneously prevented the importation of Coolies, it gave them their death-blow." Again he says, "The very bad years for the Mauritius were 1840, 1841, 1842. In 1843 and 1844 they did no good, but they were then getting up their power. When they got fresh immigration they got a fresh start. In those two years they were working up their power, and they went on and did very well in 1845; and then came the Act of 1846, which ruined all." This question is put to him: "The Committee have heard a great deal about the principles of Free Trade and the principles of Protection; will you tell the Committee whether you consider, in order to carry out all the principles of Free Trade, it is fair that restrictions on production should exist?—Certainly we have many restrictions to complain of. For instance, one of our correspondents lately put up two stills; they had hardly been put up when there was a tax of 300% a year put upon each still; that is a restriction which I think is most infamous." Again, he says, "In the Mauritius there are plenty of men to do the work; the difficulty is that they do not work. We think it is the interference of the magistracy in the country which prevents the labour being effectual." He is asked "If he thinks it would be prudent for any person to increase his expenditure materially at the present moment, with the certainty, under the circumstances, that the outlay of capital would in the course of two or three years, have to compete with the same prices as Sugar from Cuba and Brazil?—That is a very difficult question; prudent and conservative men would say, 'We will rather wait and see what the issue will be.' Others would say, 'If we have a prospect of two or three good years, we can bear the rub afterwards;' but the matter is not what is to take place five years hence, but are you to kill us, or leave us alive now."

Mauritius did very well from 1834 to 1838.

Tax upon stills.

The present question is one of life or death.

Auditor of Accounts.

Mauritius has ceased to be a burden on the mother country since 1828.

Deputy Commissary of Police.

Capricious nature of the Coolies.

Mr. Nathaniel Jones Kelsey, the Auditor of Accounts in the Mauritius, stated, that the island had paid the expenses of its own government since 1828, previous to which time large sums had been paid by the Home Treasury. Ever since the year 1828, except the year 1832, the island has ceased to be a burden to the mother country, except for Queen's pay to the troops.

Mr. George William Laing, many years Deputy Commissary of the Police in the Mauritius, was examined. He was asked, if he was able to say whether the system worked the better with the five years' contracts, or the one year contracts? He answers, he "should say that the more advantageous system to the planter was having five years, than having one year, *the men are so fond of changing. An Indian will change without knowing why or wherefore*; it is not that he has any cause to complain of the Planter, but he will go without having any fault to find."

"Do you reckon that there is a great deal of vagabondage in the island of Mauritius?—A great deal among the Indians.—What number of Indians live a vagabond life?—It is impossible to tell. Returns had been sent in before I came away to the Governor, but he complained continually of the returns not being correct, or not being sent in as they ought. I have seen them in the town, and we used to take them up and send them off to a special magistrate to have their complaints heard; *they were lying about the streets in bands*."—Are they a drunken set or a thieving set?—"They do drink very much in the Mauritius, but in India they do not; the facility of getting liquor is so great in the Mauritius."—How do those vagabonds gain their livelihood?—

"Heaven

Drunkenness and vagabondage of the Coolies.

"Heaven only knows; they may have some little money in their pockets; they eat very little, or go days without food very often."—"Do they become squatters?"—"In different parts of the island they do; in Port Louis we used to pick them up by ones and twos and threes and half dozens."—"Drunk?"—"No, lying down; they had deserted their estates without any complaint, and were lying about in the streets."—"Do you consider that wages are too high in the island?"—"They are very high; a great deal too high."—"Do you think that if the system of five years' contracts were restored, the people would be made more industrious?"—"It would be to the advantage of the planter to have it so; whether they would become industrious I cannot say; it is a voluntary act on their part entering into the contract; they perfectly understand what they are about."—"Are they a shrewd people?"—"A great many of them are, and a great many of them very stupid; they are all clever enough to understand the nature of the contract."—"What is the state of the old negro population?"—"After emancipation they disliked working, and particularly field labour; very few, I believe, are employed upon estates."—"How do they gain their livelihood?"—"As servants or artizans; some have bought a little plot of land, and do what they can with it."—"Are they a moral set of people or otherwise?"—"Marriage has been very much introduced among them since emancipation; it was not known before; they cohabited."—"You have said that five years' contracts would be beneficial; do you think that they would be agreeable or irksome to the labourers?"—"I think the extension of the contracts would be of great advantage to the planter."—"Would it be so to the labourer?"—"I should say equally so to the labourer; it would prevent his going away at the end of the year, vagabondising; they are not perfect at that time in their work."—"Do you think they would feel it a great hardship if they were forced to take five years' services?"—"No, because they would know what they were about; they are perfectly capable of understanding the contracts they enter into."

It will be seen in the papers on the General Condition of the Mauritius, laid before Parliament on the 4th February, that Sir William Gomm, speaking of the proprietary body in the Mauritius, says, "There is not one out of twenty of that respectable class in the colony, but would as soon have thought of establishing a powder mill as a sugar mill upon his land, but for the temptation and sustentation held out to him from abroad; in other words, the support of British capital. Let this also be reasonably and securely employed in pursuit of the ends aimed at, and in the modes pointed out by Mr. Regnard; and I am firmly persuaded that the island possesses the means within itself fully to indemnify the adventurers in such a pursuit for the caprices of the Indians, who, as it appears to me, must be subjected to prison discipline, to make them do as they are wanted, and to ensure to the land the amount of labour it requires, without recourse to coercion or compulsion of any sort." Writing on the 9th of August 1847, Sir William Gomm speaks of "the number of Indian immigrants known to be not devoting themselves to field labour or other regular employments of any description." Speaking of the Ordinances, No. 22 and No. 24, of the present year, the civil commissary in the Mauritius, Mr. Montocchio says, that from the short time those two Ordinances have been in force, it is difficult to form his opinion upon their working up to this moment; but it results from the knowledge he has obtained amongst the Planters of his quarter, "that several of them, who had the greatest difficulty to procure Indian labourers before the promulgation of the two Ordinances in question, have not only completed now the number of labourers necessarily required on their respective estates, but moreover have declined the service offered by Indians themselves; a circumstance which never happened before to the Planters in question." It is only justice to Earl Grey to state that he has done much to remedy the evils previously existing, which have so grievously oppressed the Planters of the Mauritius in various ways since 1838. And it is only justice, if all has not been done that the requirements of the Planter and wise policy would dictate, in respect of facilities to a well-regulated immigration of Coolies, it would seem that not a few of the impediments have rather lain with the Directors of the East India Company than with Earl Grey. Addressing Sir William Gomm on the 15th January 1847, Earl Grey says, "I have to request that you will acquaint the Legislative Council, in answer to their

Governor
Sir Wm. Gomm.
—

Necessity of regulating the conduct of the Coolies.

Some of the late Ordinances have had the effect of bringing the labourers back to their field employment.

East India Company responsible for many of the restrictions on Coolie immigration.

Evil results of Lord Grey's disallowing Ordinance No. 1, 1846.

address, that while I trust that the recent change which Parliament has thought proper to make in the Sugar Duties will by no means have the injurious effect they apprehend on the interests of the British sugar-growing colonies, I concur in the opinion they have expressed, that the cost of the introduction of labourers from India is too heavy for the colony." At the same time, such being the sentiments of Earl Grey in 1847, in which Your Committee entirely concur, it may be lamented that Earl Grey, in September 1846, should have been prevailed upon to disallow Ordinance, No. 1, of 1846, by which it was intended to have secured to the Planters a greater continuance of labour on the part of the Coolies, by a more rigid enforcement of contracts, as well as by placing more stringent but just restrictions upon their return to their native country without having fulfilled the equity and spirit, as well as the letter of the conditions of their industrial contracts. On the 6th January 1847, Sir William Gomm, whilst acknowledging the receipt of Lord Grey's despatch of the 29th of September, disallowing the Ordinance, writes: "I feel it to be due from me at the same time, to the framers and principal promoters of that measure, respectfully to represent to your Lordship, that while none of the consequences injurious to the labourers apprehended by your Lordship, from the ostensible bearing of some of its provisions, have been brought to my notice by the parties officially charged with the investigation and detection of these, and whose zeal and watchfulness in the cause of the labourers is undisputed through the eleven months during which the Ordinance has been in operation, its beneficial working has been very generally acknowledged, and has been so reported upon by me in several recent despatches. The thronging of bands from distant quarters of the Island to the general depôt in Port Louis, for the purpose of re-engagement, after completion of their term, and which was the occasion of so much inconvenience and loss of time to employers, and temptation to wander among the immigrants prevailing so generally during the first two years of renewed immigration, has been effectually checked and finally discontinued, as my immigration returns regularly transmitted for some months past will have shown mainly, if not wholly, *through the working of Articles 8 and 9 of the annulled Ordinance*. A wholesome check is also observed to have been given to wanton and habitual absenteeism and desertion by Articles 3, 6, 7, and 8, as announced to be their object in my despatch, No. 54, of the 7th of March last, transmitting the Ordinance. The operation of article 14 has also been considered generally beneficial, and fulfilling the object contemplated by its enactment, as reported in the same despatch, that of Articles 20 and 21, in like manner." Sir William Gomm goes on to say: "The reasonableness of requiring of the immigrant labourer, obtained at heavy charge to the colony, withdrawing himself from the species of labour for which he was specially introduced, that he should refund an adequate portion of the expense of his introduction; that those returning in such numbers to their homes at their own charge, previous to completion of their stipulated period of sojourn of five years in the colony, should also be required to contribute on similar grounds, and that none should be entitled to a free return passage, after the completion of their five years' residence, but those who had *bond fide* devoted their labour throughout that period exclusively to the cultivation of the cane; these and other conditions connected with them, remunerative to the colony, have been earnestly submitted in my various immigration despatches, commencing with No. 79, of 28th April 1845, and more amply developed in No. 157, of 17th September of the same year."

Lord Grey has endeavoured to prevail on the East India Company to relax the restrictions.

Your Committee, however, trust it will be satisfactory to Your House to find that at a later period, in November 1847, Earl Grey is found successfully combating the East India Direction, in their hostility to these relaxations in favour of the Mauritius Planter. Your Committee cannot but concur with Earl Grey, in the letter of the 15th of March, addressed by his Lordship's direction to the Board of Control, that "With regard to the question whether regulations should be adopted to limit the grant of a free passage back to India to those Coolies whose prescribed term of five years' residence should have been passed in the cultivation of sugar, and not otherwise," that the Court of Directors are "mistaken in supposing that such a limitation, if retrospective, would be at variance with the engagement under which the Coolies were brought to the Mauritius." Sir William Gomm, in a despatch dated the 17th of August 1846, writes: "I hold it to be essential to their (the immi-

gration

grants) protection that the regulations in force, according to them a free passage to the colony at the expense of Government, and a free return to their homes after the expiration of five years *bonâ fide* employment in the cultivation of the soil, should be maintained. But I cannot recede from my opinion, that the colony is justly entitled to a compensation from such immigrants *as have repaired to it with the full understanding and under the express engagement that their services should be devoted, not only to field labour, but to cane cultivation in it (and that they have all so engaged is expressly vouched for by both agents through whose hands they have passed from Calcutta), and who, after a few months' occupation in the fields, have betaken themselves to various descriptions of household employment.*" To this Mr. Melvill takes exception, that the words "*in the cultivation of sugar*," are not to be found even in the Ordinance of the Mauritius Government; and he argues that a limitation of the right to a free passage back to India to such labourers as might have been employed for five years in the cultivation of Sugar, "was neither stipulated on the part of Her Majesty's Government nor enacted in the law authorizing the immigration of labourers." Now it would seem to Your Committee that though such a regulation might not comport with the letter of the contract; though the words "*in the cultivation of Sugar*" might not be found in the contract, yet there could be no doubt that the spirit of the contract was, that those labourers were to go to the Mauritius to cultivate the soil, and the only cultivation carried on in the Mauritius was notoriously the cultivation of the cane. It is mere special pleading, not an equitable plea, professed to be raised on the part of the Labourers against the Planters of the Mauritius, to allege that the Coolies entering into those contracts did not understand that they bound themselves to five years' industrial employment in cane cultivation. And when it is recollected that the evidence goes to prove that from 1½d. to 2½d. a day, without rations, are all the wages that the miserable Coolie can get in his native country; that in the East India Company's territories there is neither Poor-law or Hospitals for the aged or the sick to fall back upon, whilst in the Mauritius he receives his full rations, his clothing, his medical relief, the hut in which he lives, and his provision-grounds, without any payment whatever, with 14s. to 20s. a month pocket-money besides, it does seem a very mistaken act of kindness towards the inhabitants of India, so deeply interested in a continuance of this profitable immigration to the Mauritius, for the East India Company to interpose any obstacles which might, by increasing the cost and reducing the value of the services of the Coolies when imported, risk the loss of this, to India's crowded population, valuable immigration. If proof of this be wanting, it is to be found in Mr. Hunter's statement, that when the immigration from Madras to the Mauritius was stopped by the Government interference, the Madras Coolies absolutely travelled round all the way to Calcutta, in order to obtain the much-sought object of their desires in a passage with the Calcutta immigrants to the Mauritius. Whilst Mr. Ellis tells us that the interruption of the Coolie immigration to the Mauritius in 1838 and 1839 was felt as a heavy blow to the inhabitants of Madras, not only in the outlet which it afforded for the overgrown and ill-employed and half-starving population of the Madras Presidency, but also in the consequent diminution in the exportations of Rice for the subsistence of the Coolies so exported to the Mauritius: whilst doubtless the House of Commons has not forgotten the tale, thrilling with horror, a few years' since told within its walls, of "Dacca, once a great and flourishing city, the seat of prosperous manufactures, containing a population of 150,000 inhabitants, now reduced to 20,000 or 30,000, with the malaria and famine extending their ravages, and threatening to turn it into a desert, of whole villages swept away by dreadful inundations, and vast tracts of land utterly ruined for cultivation; of an officer, charged with a mission from Calcutta, obliged to turn back in consequence of the horrible smell arising from the unburied carcases of those unfortunate beings who had died from famine, and whose bodies literally strewed the roads."

Contrast this description of the lot of the Coolies when at home, under the care of the East India Company, with their lot in the Mauritius, where heretofore their ills have arisen from too high wages, too much rum, too much license, and too little regulation; and it will not be difficult to decide, in this dispute between Earl Grey and the East India Company, which has shown himself the truest friend of the Coolie and of India.

Differing altogether from the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, Your Committee are disposed to concur entirely with Lord Grey in the great and manifest advantages which result to the Coolies from the immigration, and the impossibility of continuing to conduct it on a system which admits of the outlay incurred by the colony being entirely, or in part, thrown away through the idleness of the Coolie, or his change of purpose and premature departure from the colony. If the contract under which the Coolie immigrates is to afford no security whatever that the colony will receive the labour for which it pays in advance so large a bonus as the out-passage amounts to, and incurs so serious a liability as the back-passage involves, the terms would be too unequal to be the basis of any prudent commercial undertakings, or to justify an expenditure of the public revenue which only the success of such undertakings could avail to reinstate.

Coolies should only have a free passage back as remunerative for continuous labour.

Your Committee conceive that there is nothing but common sense in the condition required by Lord Grey, that a free back passage should only be found for the Coolie as an additional reward in remuneration of continuous industry; and that the forfeiture of the advance made in the form of a free passage out, should be imposed if the industry is not exercised. And that in order to act upon the Coolies by the same motives by which men are impelled to labour in countries where industry flourishes, the advantages given to the labourers in consideration of their labour ought to be made contingent on the labour being performed, and not irrespective of it; and that the cost of passages to and fro should be placed as much as may be on the same footing with the other remunerative returns which they are to look to for their labour, and which they are not to enjoy if idle.

Summary of Mauritius case.

The summary of the case of the Mauritius appears to be, first, the absolute necessity, to prevent one-third if not two-thirds the estates going out of Sugar cultivation, of such a differential duty for a certain period between British and Foreign Sugar as shall afford to the Mauritius a price of at least 29s. or 30s. a cwt. in England, so as to restore confidence and credit, and the means to the Planters of obtaining capital to carry on their operations. That the onerous tax of 300*l.* on stills, which appears to have nearly annihilated the distillation of rum for exportation, should be abolished; and that, as a substitute for this tax, but more especially as a measure of police to put down drunkenness, heavy licences should be exacted from all retailers of spirits; and secondly, that facilities of every description should be afforded to obtain Free Labourers in the cheapest and the best market. For this object all the evidence before the Committee tends to point out Madagascar as the most proper and convenient scene for such operations, alike as regards the cheapness and the value of the emigrants to be obtained, as the supply of cattle and provisions. But above all things, Your Committee would impress upon The House the necessity of letting the colony more alone; of allowing the colonists a more direct management and control of their own affairs; of curbing the mischievous spirit in the Colonial Office of petty legislation, which has heretofore prevailed; of leaving the Colonists more to the management of their own parochial affairs and labour contracts; of putting an end to all those meddling restrictions which forbid immigrants to be imported by twentys and thirties, either in the rice ships or in the East Indiamen, as they pass the Mauritius on their homeward-bound voyage to Europe, to the Cape of Good Hope, or to America. And they specially call attention to the evidence of Mr. Hunter, than whom none can be better able to form a sound opinion upon such subjects; whilst they cannot but point out the flagrant inconsistency of insisting upon a space of 20 superficial feet for a diminutive Coolie, passing in a short and easy voyage from Madras or Calcutta, favoured by trade winds and a fine climate, to the Mauritius, being provided with a surgeon, with six feet between the decks, and restricted to ships above 300 tons register, when 14 feet is deemed ample accommodation for English, for Scotch, or Irish emigrants crossing the Atlantic, without any regulation as to the size of the ships, or the height between decks; whilst every one in the slightest degree conversant with nautical affairs must know that a vessel of 100 tons is just as secure, or more so perhaps, than one of 1,000 tons, navigating those Indian seas. Your Committee are willing to believe, that after 14 years of persecution, the Colonial Office is at length beginning to understand that the relative positions of the Planter and Labourer are now altogether reversed, as compared

compared with the days of slavery. Under slavery, it was right and proper that a jealous supervision should be exercised over the master, who might have been a tyrant, and against whose tyranny the slave could have no redress, except in the protection of some superior power. But slavery was no sooner abolished, than the relations of master and man became reversed; and in Sugar and Coffee cultivation the Labourer was virtually instituted the master, and in his turn has unquestionably become the tyrant of the Planter. In England the capitalists can combine against the operatives, and are always pretty certain, in the long run, to defeat the working classes in any unreasonable strike for higher wages. The cotton-spinner can stop his mill, and all he loses are the profits of his trade and the interest of his capital whilst his mill is standing still. In like manner, if the miners strike work, the extent of the injury is limited; some loss may accrue from putting the furnace out of blast, or allowing the mine to get full of water, but the mischief can be measured. Not so in a Sugar or a Coffee Plantation; the labourers know full well that the whole capital of their employer is lost, if when the crop on the ground is ripe, they refuse to cut the canes or gather the berries; or when the rains come, and the weeds spring up with the rank growth of tropical climates, they refuse at the critical moment to lend a hand to save the canes or the coffee plants from being smothered.

Last, but not least, the colony cries loudly for redress against the extravagant expenditure of one of the most inefficient Governments on the face of the earth. Without entering into greater detail upon the general items of expenditure, it is almost sufficient to state that the salary of the Governor of an Island no bigger than the county of Sussex, is 7,228 *l.* a year; whilst that of the French Governor in the sister Island of Bourbon is only 2,400 *l.* a year; that the Colonial Secretary's Office, is 4,131 *l.* a year; the Audit Office, 2,935 *l.* a year; the Treasury and Pay Office, 2,823 *l.* a year; the Surveyor-general and Engineer's Department, 6,241 *l.* a year; the pensions, 4,176 *l.* a year; the Customs Department, 5,335 *l.* a year; the Harbour Department, 5,819 *l.* a year; the Internal Revenues Department, 3,143 *l.* a year; the Registration and Mortgage Department, 2,843 *l.* a year; the Court of Appeal, 5,581 *l.* a year; the Procureur and Advocate-general, 3,076 *l.* a year; the Police Office, proved to be the worst in the world, 19,167 *l.* a year; the Protector of Immigrants, 1,440 *l.* a year; the contingent expenditure alone, amounting to 109,132 *l.* a year, out of a gross expenditure of little short of 300,000 *l.* a year,—to satisfy the most lavish House of Commons that so extravagant an expenditure would require to be cut down with no very sparing hand, however prosperous the circumstances of the colony;—how much more so, then, when the Mauritius presents a melancholy picture of universal bankruptcy, with its population fed by the hand of the Imperial Government.

THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

THE grievances alleged by the Planters of the British West Indies are, first, that by a series of Legislative Enactments, carried against their will, the Imperial Government commenced, in 1823, by depreciating the sale price of their slave property by various restrictions, prohibiting their transfer from one colony to another, and fettering the transfer by sale of Negroes from one estate to another by a condition imposed, that families or reputed families should not be separated. Humane, just, and moral as were these regulations, it cannot be disputed that they were an invasion of the strict rights of property, and brought down the "*sale price*," as contradistinguished from the *intrinsic value when attached to Sugar Plantations, and taken in connection with the value of land*, from 50 to 70 per cent. Thus whilst previous to these regulations the sale price of slaves ruled high, and was nearly equal throughout the colonies, in the latter years previous to emancipation the public sales fell 50 and 70 per cent. in Jamaica, Antigua, and Barbadoes, as compared with the sale-price value of slaves in the Sugar-planting States of the United States, and even as compared with the market price of slaves in British Guiana and Trinidad.

Subsequent to this, the British nation, in 1833, inspired by generous feelings of humanity, an abhorrence of slavery, and a religious enthusiasm which then possessed the people of England, that the encouragement or sufferance of slavery, nay even connivance at it, was a high crime against God and the Christian Religion, resolved to put an end to slavery in the British dominions; and setting a glorious example of magnanimity, of Christian virtue, and self-sacrifice, fondly hoped to shame the other nations of the world to follow the British lead, and speedily wipe out the guilt of Slavery from the laws of civilized nations.

See Treaty of Ghent.

In 1833 the Imperial Parliament decreed Emancipation, with Compensation; but in valuing the slave property of the Planters, and rendering their lands profitless by stripping them of the hands which were necessary to their cultivation, no arbitrators were appointed to value the threatened and impending loss to the Planters. The British nation took by force the property of the Planter, and bought it at its own price. Having just before, under an impartial arbitration, paid a compensation of 74*l.* a head to the citizens of the United States upon the whole of the slaves captured during the late war, and 130*l.* a head upon all the slaves belonging to the Sugar Plantations of Louisiana, the British nation said, "We will take another mode with the citizens of our own colonies. Profiting by our former legislation, which has depreciated the market value of detached slaves, we will assess the value of slave property, not in conjunction with the estates of which they are an indispensable part and parcel, but we will take the average price of slaves sold during the last seven years at *forced auction sales*; and having ascertained what that is, regardless of the American contrast, we will pay our own citizens 8*s.* 10½*d.* in the *l.* We find the aggregate value of all the slaves in the British Colonies estimated by this gauge is 45,000,000*l.* sterling; we will pay you down 20,000,000*l.* sterling, and in compensation for the 25,000,000*l.*, of which we scorn to bilk you, we guarantee you six years' apprenticeship; with '*an honourable understanding*,' that if you lose anything in point of production, it shall be amply made up to you in the better price you will get for your diminished produce, through the monopoly which you will of course have of the Home Market." *

The Planters complained that though this mode of compensation might be satisfactory to the mortgagees and monied men in London, who would get the lion's share of the 20,000,000*l.*, it was no compensation to them, whose land in former estimates had been reckoned at double the value of the slaves, for the ruin to its value sure to follow upon its being stripped of the cultivators, without whose continuous labour the estates must become waste and worthless. The Planters virtually said, "You value our slaves at 45,000,000*l.*, and you compensate us with 20,000,000*l.* on this head of our claims; but if our slaves *per se* are worth 45,000,000*l.*, our estates, according to all previous estimates, are worth 90,000,000*l.*; you are going to render these comparatively worthless by rendering them waste, and for this, the principal injury to the proprietors, as distinguished from the mortgagee, you have assigned to us no damages and no reparation whatever."

The Planters were answered, "True, we take from you your tyrant power over your slaves; we relieve them from their chains and deprive you of the cart-whip incitements to work; but believe us, we in England understand the value of freedom and free labour over slave labour, better than you do in the West Indies; and trust us, when we tell you that a freeman will do twice the work at half the cost that the same amount of labour could be extracted from the slave under fear of the lash."

The Planter was unconvinced, but his cry was disregarded. The Great Act of Emancipation was carried in 1833, with seven years' apprenticeship, guarded with seven years' supervision over the Planters by Stipendiary Magistrates sent from

* Under the Treaty of Ghent, Great Britain paid to the citizens of the United States 266,197*l.* 10*s.*, in compensation for 3,601 slaves, of all ages and sexes, made prisoners during the war and afterwards liberated.

The slaves of Louisiana (a Sugar-planting State), 263 in number, were valued by the Commission at 34,321*l.*, being at the rate of 130*l.* 10*s.* a head.

from England, with 20,000,000*l.* sterling compensation, which fell principally into the hands of the monied interest and mortgagees in England, with an honourable understanding that the British Planters were to have a monopoly of the Home Market for their produce, with no restrictions imposed upon the immigration of free labourers, or upon contracts to be entered into with free labourers of any character advantageous to the Planter.

The advocates of cheap Sugar say, "In 1834 we paid you 20,000,000*l.* sterling, and we closed the account, and we will not re-open it." But the complaint of the Colonists is, that the closed account has been ever and anon disastrously "re-opened," to their constant injury and final ruin. "You robbed us," they say, "of two years of our apprenticeship, which it is proved by the Evidence laid before you was nearly as profitable as slavery; but you left us harassed by your Stipendiary Magistrates, appointed professedly to protect the apprentices against their slave-masters so long only as this semi-slavery lasted, you continued them to make mischief between the emancipated free negro and his employer; to countenance and in many cases to encourage the new-born freeman in his complaints against, and in his unreasonable demands upon the Planters. You passed new Ordinances proscribing the Planters from seeking competing free labourers from other climates; you virtually raised a monopoly among the emancipated negroes; the tendency of all your laws was to check the control of the employers over the employed, to deprive capital of its power of resistance to combinations of workmen; you took no precaution to prevent squatting and vagrancy, still less to ensure continuous labour to the Planters; but every act of the administration of your Colonial Government went to subjugate the old slave-owner to the caprices, and place him and the cultivation of his estates at the mercy of his emancipated negro. The effects of your ignorant misgovernment, unable to see in the emancipation of the slaves a revolutionary era, converting the old slave-holding Planter into the slave of his former slave, has been fatally to pervert the proper direction of the protective care of the Supreme Government."

It was essential to the interests of justice and humanity, whilst the Planter continued possessed of tyrant powers over the Negro, that a parental Government should watch with a jealous eye over the conduct of the Planter, and should guard his helpless slave from maltreatment; but when the slave was emancipated from his chains, and was suddenly put into possession of a power which virtually made him the master of his employer, and put the Planter entirely at his mercy, common sense pointed out the necessity for reversing the old policy, and transferring protection from the omnipotent free Negro to the disarmed and helpless Planter. But unhappily for the interests of the Planters, unhappily for the interests of the British Empire, and unhappily, in the end, for the interests of the African race not under British rule, and still doomed to undergo aggravated slavery in Brazil and in Cuba, an unchangeable spirit and an hereditary evil genius appear to have swayed and perverted the judgment of the Colonial Office; the prejudices against the slave-owner continued to be fostered, and even fomented, against the unfortunate planter, stripped of his power, and when rendered harmless and helpless, he continued to be relentlessly persecuted as though he were still an enemy to humanity and the African race.

Finally, the British Colonists say, "After having thus annoyed us for twelve years with your mischievous meddling with the social relations of master and servant, which in the Sugar and Coffee Planting Colonies you so little understood, and having fettered our energies by forbidding us to get labourers from cheaper markets, you have completed the sum of your injustice, and set the seal upon our ruin, by breaking, in 1846, the honourable understanding whereby, in 1833, you assured us of the monopoly of the Home Market."

One section of the West Indians demand:—

That their Sugar should be admitted into the Mother Country duty free.

That the present duty of 20*s.* a cwt. should be continued on Foreign Sugar.

That Rum should be admitted on an equality with British Spirits.

That the Navigation Laws should be repealed.

That increased and more effectual methods should be had recourse to, to put down the Slave trade, and secure the freedom of the Emancipados in Cuba and Brazil.

That they should be allowed free access to the Coast of Africa to obtain labourers as best they may.

That the colonial expenditure be reduced 25 per cent.

That Loans should be advanced to them for purposes of drainage, irrigation, and internal improvement analogous to the 2,000,000 *l.* Loan in Great Britain.

The more moderate of the West Indians are content to ask,—

For a differential Protective Duty of 10 *s.* a cwt. against Foreign Sugar, until the Colonies have had the opportunity of providing themselves with efficient and sufficient Free Labour, at such a cost as shall enable them successfully to compete with Slave Labour.

That the Planters shall have the most unrestricted access to the Coast of Africa, and elsewhere, in search of the best and cheapest labourers.

That a portion of the expenditure now devoted to the forcible suppression of the Slave Trade should be withdrawn, and annually applied to facilitate the immigration of Free Labourers, and more especially of Africans.

That more effectual measures shall be devised for the coercive suppression of the Slave Trade, suggesting that a portion of the naval force engaged in that service, especially steamers, should be stationed off the coasts of the transatlantic countries to which the slaves are conveyed.

They ask that the duties on Rum shall be reduced to *equality* with the duties on Home-made Spirits; and the Act 10 Vict. c. 6, permitting the distillation of Sugar, may be so amended as to render the drawback of duty sufficient, and that Sugar should be permitted to be used in distillation along with grain as well as separately.

They request to be permitted to bring the produce of the Colonies to market in any form which may be found most convenient, and to refine it in bond before entering it for home consumption.

That the colonial expenditure be reduced 25 per cent.

They ask that Parliamentary Loans may be guaranteed to them upon satisfactory provision being made for their liquidation, to encourage drainage and other agricultural improvements.

These do not ask for a repeal of the Navigation Laws.

Your Committee have examined into all these matters of complaint, and will endeavour to report the result of the evidence to The House. The West Indian Colonists unite in representing the grievous and unprecedented state of distress in which they are unfortunately placed. They allege, that unless effectual relief is offered to them, and that immediately, a great portion of the Sugar Plantations must follow the fate of the larger portion of the Coffee Plantations, which have already been abandoned.

Doubts appearing to prevail in the minds of some, whether the present alleged distress in the West Indies was a reality or not, Your Committee cross-examined many of the Witnesses brought before them, who, one and all, alleged that the present distress exceeded all previous cases of distress, and was altogether unprecedented. As to the truth of similar allegations made of distress in the year * 1842, and in 1831, and even at earlier periods, Your Committee, without thinking it necessary to discuss now how far the complaints of former times were exaggerations or not, are satisfied to rest their conviction that the present distress far exceeds any that ever before occurred in the West Indies, upon the facts proved by every Witness, almost without exception, of the enormous falling off in the incomes of those estates with which he was himself connected, in the present as compared with former periods.

It can easily be understood that those who are represented by such Witnesses as Lord Howard de Walden, Sir William Codrington, Mr. Tollemache, Mr. Price, Mr. Greene, Mr. Shand, and Mr. Naghten, to have enjoyed incomes varying from 40,000 *l.* to 30,000 *l.* and 20,000 *l.* a year during the time of the war and up to the year 1819, should have thought themselves ruined when the value of their produce fell off to one half what it had been in the former period. Thus it will be found in the Evidence of Sir William Codrington, that he stated that the late Sir Bethell Codrington derived for many years 30,000 *l.*, and even 35,000 *l.*, and had even during Apprenticeship received as much as 20,000 *l.* a year from those estates now in his possession, and of which the gains, which in 1844 had amounted to 6,000 *l.* a year, had fallen to 1,700 *l.* a year in 1847, though the crop had increased from an average of 546 hogs-

heads

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heads to 861 hogsheads. Sir William Codrington stated to the Committee that but for the fall of 12*s.* a cwt. in the price of Sugar, 10*s.* of which he ascribed to the Act of 1846, his income in the last year, instead of being 1,700*l.*, would have been 7,727*l.*

Lord Howard de Walden states, that the average net income upon his joint estates in Jamaica, during the last eight years, has been but 900*l.* a year, whilst in his father's lifetime they used to net above 20,000 *l.* Lord Howard de Walden says that he knows, from having heard his father so state, that in the year 1823 he netted above 20,000 *l.* a year; and he also knows from his father, that his merchant, the late Mr. Deffiell, so long as he did business for him, gave him a regular credit for 20,000 *l.* a year for those estates.

Thus, Mr. Price, the joint proprietor of the far-famed Worthy Park Estate, of which his family had been in possession for 200 years, stated to the Committee that the average income of the estate, as far as he can recollect, prior to emancipation, was 15,000*l.* a year; and that one year it netted 30,000*l.*; that was in the year 1817. He remembered hearing his father say what the estate yielded, and that it averaged from 15,000 *l.* to 25,000 *l.* a year, and that he was now losing 1,000 *l.* a year by the estate.

Thomas Price, Esq.
Worthy Park Estate.

Mr. Tollemache, a Member of the House, proprietor of five very fine estates in Antigua, stated that the average profit of the ten years of his estate prior to 1846 was 3,973 *l.*

	£.
His profits were in 1838 - - - -	7,245
— in 1839 - - - -	9,631
— in 1840 - - - -	12,843
His loss was in 1846 - - - -	269

In 1837, notwithstanding that he got a crop of 642 hogsheads against the average of 520 hogsheads, and that by getting his Sugar early in the year to market he got 1*s.* a hundredweight above the average price for his Sugar, which upon 642 hogsheads represented 1,350*l.*; and in 1846, by going out to the West Indies, had been able to reduce his expenditure to the amount of between 900 *l.* and 1,000 *l.* a year, he only reaped a profit of 1,350 *l.* In like manner Mr. Green, who is the agent for one-third of the estates in St. Kitt's, speaking of five estates which belonged to his father, says, that those five estates, in the three years, 1838, 1839, and 1840, averaged a profit of 10,277 *l.* That these five estates in 1845, made a profit of 5,185 *l.*; and in 1846, 5,714 *l.* He is asked, what will be the state of the case in the year 1847? He says, he has not got the accounts up to 1847 yet; but that he apprehends there will be a loss, from the low price at which they had sold their produce. He is asked, if the prices continue as they are now, what will be the prospects of the estate? He says that it must produce a loss of from 4*l.* to 5 *l.* a ton; that will be a loss of from 3,000 *l.* to 4,000 *l.* a year upon the ten estates.

Mr. Greene gave a statement also of four well-known estates in Jamaica, belonging to the son of a gentleman many years a Member of Your House.

Benj. Buck Greene, Esq.

He stated, that in the year,—

	£.
1835, the Proprietor got - - - -	21,587
1836 - - ditto - - - -	22,102
1837 - - ditto - - - -	18,720
1838 - - ditto - - - -	9,428
1839 - - ditto - - - -	9,265
1840 a loss of - - - -	12
1841 a profit of - - - -	2,673
1842 a loss of - - - -	746
1843 ditto - - - -	1,157
1844 a profit of - - - -	1,574
1845 ditto - - - -	5,123
And in 1846 a loss of - - - -	1,134

These were the sums paid to him quite net by Mr. Greene's father and himself. Mr. Greene also said, that he had heard from the son of the proprietor, a few days

days before, that a few years previous to the abolition of Slavery; he used to receive 30,000 *l.* a year from them, and at one time much more.

But if the Witnesses had not all concurred in giving evidence to this effect, Your Committee are of opinion that the most sad but convincing evidence of the decacy of the West India Proprietors is to be found in the contrast between the value of their produce at the present time with its value in 1814, or with its value in 1830, when the ruinous difference in the cost of production is brought into the account.

In Mr. Marshall's able Report, for which the House of Commons, in 1833, made him a grant, it will be learnt "that while in 1814, the Sugar alone imported was equal in value to 12,484,714 *l.* sterling, the entire produce of the British West Indies in 1830 had fallen to 6,758,084 *l.*; the Customs Duties on which, exceeded 7,150,000 *l.* Mr. Greene has shown that of this sum of 6,758,084 *l.*, in 1830, only 4,890,786 *l.* consisted of Sugar; whilst the value of the produce of the British West Indies, imported into Great Britain in the three previous years was, —

	£.
In 1829 - - - - -	8,212,593
1828 - - - - -	8,907,756
1827 - - - - -	9,428,209

It is very easy to understand that those who in 1814 had obtained 12,484,714 *l.* for their Sugar alone, and in 1827 had got 9,428,209 *l.* for their aggregate produce, should have raised a cry of distress in 1830, when, probably through the joint operation of the growing rivalry of Mauritius Sugar, and of the general reduction of prices consequent upon the withdrawal of one pound notes, they found the gross proceeds of their Sugar reduced to 4,890,786 *l.*, and that of their entire produce to 6,758,084 *l.*; whilst, at the same time, they were still condemned to pay the full "*War Taxes*" to the annual amount of 7,150,000 *l.*, no longer in a "one pound note currency," on their diminished proceeds. They had witnessed the not "ignorant impatience" under taxation of their more fortunate countrymen in England attended to, in their relief from the burden of "*War Taxes*," to the amount of 32,000,000 *l.* sterling a year. These circumstances, Your Committee are of opinion, may have given occasion to the complaints in 1830; and removes any cause of wonder that those whose incomes had fallen to half or less than half what they had been in 1814, should have been deceived into thinking themselves sunk in the lowest depth of distress. They are at any rate awakened now to the painful sense of yet a lower depth than that of 1830.

Mr. Greene has continued Mr. Marshall's picture down to 1847, with a further estimate of what 1848 will discover. In 1847 the gross proceeds of the entire produce of the West Indies imported into Great Britain was 5,494,555 *l.*; that of Sugar, 4,336,930 *l.*; the estimate for 1848 exhibits a gross value for the entire produce 4,033,830 *l.*, and 3,105,000 *l.* for Sugar.

But the blackest side of the picture remains yet to be exhibited, and that will be found in the increased cost of production *pari passu* with the diminished value of the produce, and will be seen in the following table:—

VALUE, QUANTITY, COST PER TON, and TOTAL COST of Making SUGAR Imported from the British West Indies, in 1814, 1830, 1847; with an Estimate by Mr. Greene for 1848.

	Value.	Tons Imported.	Cost, per Ton.	Total Cost of Making.
	£.		£. s. d.	£.
1814 - - - - -	12,484,714	182,140	13 - -	2,914,140
1830 - - - - -	4,890,786	195,031	7 13 4	1,369,517
1847 - - - - -	4,336,930	159,557	21 5 -	3,390,083
1848 (Estimate) - - - - -	3,105,000	135,000	21 5 -	2,868,500

Note.—The cost for 1814 is assumed to be the same with the average given in the Report of 1812, as being the average cost in Jamaica from 1808 to 1812; the cost in 1830 is taken from Mr. Shand's evidence, and presents a fair average; the cost for 1847 and 1848 is estimated, upon the average of nine islands, according to the ascertained cost in each island, and the produce thereof at such cost; viz.—

	Proportion of Produce.	Average Cost.	Average on the Aggregate Produce.
		s. d. per cwt.	s. d.
Jamaica - - - - -	$\frac{1}{11}$	22 7	21 3
Guiana and Trinidad - - - - -	$\frac{4}{11}$	25 -	
Barbadoes and Antigua - - - - -	$\frac{2}{11}$ 25	15 4 $\frac{2}{3}$	
St. Vincent - - - - -	60	19 2	
St. Kitt's and Grenada - - - - -	90	16 2	
Tobago - - - - -	25	17 -	

P.S.—Lord Harris in his latest despatches estimates the average cost of making Sugar throughout the English islands as high as 22 s. 9 d. a cwt. = to 22 l. 15 s. per ton, but estimates the cost in Trinidad far below 25 s.

Thus whilst the gross proceeds of last year's sugar crop is considerably above half a million less, the cost of cultivation and making is more, by upwards of two millions sterling, than that of 1830.

Whatever, then, may have been the position of the British West India Planters in 1830, it is but unhappily too clear that it is worse to the extent of above two millions and a half sterling in the year ending the 31st of December 1847; and this notwithstanding the bounty and mercy of Providence, whose will it has been to bless them with the most fertile season, and the largest crop gathered in the British West Indies since the emancipation of the negroes.

Looking at the matter in another point of view, it will be seen that in 1847,

	£.
The cost of cultivation and making of Sugar was - - - - -	3,390,086
Freight on Sugars to England - - - - -	638,228
Brokerage, Landing Charges, Insurance, &c. - - - - -	478,671
Aggregate Charges - - - - -	4,506,985
Gross value of 159,557 tons of Sugar (sold and unsold) imported from the British West Indies in 1847, estimated at the Market Prices of the day when imported - - - - -	4,336,930
Excess of Cost of Cultivation, Manufacture, Freight and charges over value in England, supposing the entire quantity of 159,557 tons imported, to have been saleable at the nominal Market Prices of the day when imported - - - - -	170,055

It will be learned, however, from Mr. Greene's statement, that the real quantity of British West India Sugar actually sold for consumption in 1847 was only 129,130 tons, the price realized only 3,524,323 l., which, deducted from the cost as above, viz. 4,506,985 l., leaves the British West Indian Planters absolutely 982,662 l. out of pocket—losers, in short, by the year's transactions, of only a trifle under one million sterling.

Contrast this with Mr. Marshall's description in 1831.

"It will be seen," writes Mr. Marshall, "that Great Britain draws annually from the West Indian Possessions a net surplus in value to the amount of three millions and a half sterling over and above the value of all merchandise exported, which surplus is absorbed or appropriated as follows, viz. :—

	£.
Freight - - - - -	1,000,000
Commission, Brokerage, Agency, &c. - - - - -	400,000
Discharge of Interest on Mortgages - - - - -	1,000,000
Profits to Proprietors of Plantations residing in Great Britain - - - - -	1,100,000
	£. 3,500,000

It may be said that these do not afford a fair comparison, inasmuch as Mr. Marshall's statement in 1831 had regard to the entire produce of the British West Indies, the one here exhibited for 1847 is limited to Sugar. This is true; but a reference to Mr. Greene's analysis of Mr. Marshall's statement shows that nearly five-sevenths of the value of the produce of the British West Indies in 1830 consisted of Sugar. The comparison therefore for every practical purpose is correct.

Such are the returns of British Possessions in 1847, of which the fee simple at the conclusion of the last century was estimated at one hundred and thirty millions sterling.

J A M A I C A.

Your Committee could multiply the examples of evidence given to them of estates in all the West Indies rendering large profits previous to Emancipation, showing good profits during the apprenticeship, falling to a loss in the year immediately succeeding to apprenticeship, recovering in 1845 and 1846, but reduced now at present prices to a certainty of continued loss, but that it is to be found in the Despatches of most of the Governors of the West Indies. On the 21st of September 1847 Sir Charles Grey writes to Earl Grey, stating, "I think it my duty to mention that the low price to which Sugar has recently fallen in the London market without any corresponding reduction of duty, really threatens with ruin many of the Planters who have latterly been struggling hard to keep their heads above water; and that I perceive indications of a movement within the island to support, in the next Session of the Imperial Parliament, the party which asserts the principle of Protection. It is not unlikely that, with this object in view, there may be an effort of the Planters' party in the House of Assembly here to delay the Annual Revenue Bills and the principal business of the Session of the Island Legislature until after Christmas." This result, however, Sir Charles Grey appears to have averted in his speech to the House of Assembly, on the 19th of October, by holding out to them the expectation that they would get relief from the British Legislature. He says, in his speech to the House of Assembly, "I freely declare my opinion that you have a strong claim to relief by a further reduction of duty, if the finances of England can sustain it. As far as I am capable of forming a judgment, such relief would indirectly be advantageous, even to the English revenue derivable from the import of Sugar, and on the other hand would be effectual for the purpose of at least neutralizing the effects of competition, and of placing the Sugar Planter here in as good a position as that in which he stood three years ago."

He says, "I wish with all my heart you could be placed in a much better one, but we must look to what is practicable; and, after a careful and painstaking examination of the circumstances in which you stand, and taking these in connexion with the considerations of awful importance which are implicated with the finances of the United Kingdom, on which it is not too much to say that the peace and salvation of the world depends, I cannot at present extend any hopes for your obtaining direct relief from the Imperial Parliament beyond the limit I have pointed out." Sir Charles Grey adds, "When I plainly avow to you that the two modes of relief which I have indicated, and perhaps some relaxation of the Navigation Laws, are the only ones in which I can at present perceive any reasonable hope of your having the assistance of the Imperial Parliament, it nevertheless seems to me that you not only ought not to despair, but that you have the strongest incentives to apply to your own legislative powers, to the people, the soil, the products, the agriculture, the manufactures, and the trade and commerce of the Island."

The limits so pointed out appear to be not that the Planter was to expect any further protection by prohibitory duties against Foreign Sugar, but that there should be some revision of the Import Duties upon Sugar which he represented

represented as in some instances remaining so high as to be destructive not only of the interest of the Planter, but equally so upon the Trade and Revenue of the United Kingdom. In forwarding a copy of this speech to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Sir Charles Grey on the 6th of November writes: "It will perhaps be thought that I said more than was necessary on this occasion; that I have admitted too broadly, and to an inconvenient extent, the claims of the Planters to relief; and that I have inculcated measures of policy, and especially of finance, which I am not entitled to suppose Her Majesty's Government would recommend. But the state of public feeling, and the clamour that was rising from all parts of the West Indies, made me think it desirable that by an early call of the House I should prevail on the Members of the Legislature to engage themselves in the business of the Session before they should become pledged by resolutions at parochial meetings to courses incompatible with the discharge of their legislative functions. A merely formal address, consisting only of empty civilities or common-place recommendations, would have been received with disgust and impatience, and would have been a vacuum into which all the better feeling of the moment, would have outpoured itself in reply."

The hopes so encouraged by Governor Grey were doomed to sad and speedy disappointment from the Colonial Office at home. Writing in answer on the 30th of October 1847, Lord Grey says: "However deeply I may lament the difficulties with which the planters have to struggle, I must express, speaking in their own interest, my hope that they will not indulge in the visionary expectation that their former protection can possibly be re-established; such an expectation could only lead to disappointment, and the effect in the meantime would be to abate those efforts which afford the only real prospect of conducting the cultivation of Sugar with success. I cannot concur in the statement that the duty paid in this country upon Sugar is a burthen upon the colonists. *It is a tax on the consumer, and on the consumer only; and it is important that this truth, which has long been recognized by practical as well as scientific men in this country, should be perceived in Jamaica.*" Your Committee cannot but fear that the colonists in Jamaica having been inveigled into voting the Supplies by this half promise of relief, so largely held out to them by Sir Charles Grey in his opening speech, will be inspired with bitter feelings of more than ordinary disappointment when they find that all the consolation that they are to receive from home is to consist in recommendations not to abate those efforts "which afford," in Lord Grey's mind, "the only real prospect of conducting the cultivation of Sugar with success;" and when they see that the reduction of the duty on Slave-grown Sugar raised the price of Yellow Havannahs from 18s. to 28s. in 1846, and that in 1847, whilst British Plantation Sugar has fallen 13s. a cwt., Yellow Havannahs have only fallen about 7s. 6d., they will not be disposed to place much confidence "in the important truth, so long recognized by practical as well as scientific men in this country," that taxes on Sugar, at least, are taxes on the consumer, and on the consumer only.

Writing on the 7th of February last, Sir Charles Grey states: "That the majority of estates labour under ruinous distress, whilst the prices of Sugar remain at their present rate, is, I fear, undeniable; but some proprietors and managers retain their hopes, and in some instances I am told the evidence, especially from the western end of the island, was unexpected by the committee, and proved that in some instances, and under certain circumstances, Sugar cultivation is still far from being in a desperate condition, or, at present, absolutely unprofitable."

A N T I G U A.

Mr. Naghten.
—

Mr. Naghten gave an account^o of his ancestral possessions in the West Indies. They produced him and his father, on an average, upwards of 20,000 *l.* a year during slavery; at present prices, and cost of production, they return a loss.

Governor
Higginson.
—

Governor Higginson, on the 26th of January 1847, writing from Antigua, says, "The majority of estates are heavily encumbered, and very few of the proprietors have capital at command, and the ruinous rate at which they are compelled to borrow greatly augments the cost of production. I do not believe that at the present prices half the gross proceeds of sales are netted by the sugar grower, the larger portion being swallowed up by the duty and the merchant's charges for freight, commission, discounts, &c. The state of the market must regulate the profits and losses of the producer, and if that were to continue as at present, the culture of the cane must necessarily be abandoned, because, as I have before observed, existing prices do not remunerate him for his outlay."

He says, "It must be conceded that, for obvious reasons, free-grown Sugar can never yield so lucrative a return as that produced by the labour of foreign slaves." He says, "The wages of field-work have, within the last month, fallen from 10 *d.* and 1 *s.* to 6 *d.* and 8 *d.* sterling per day, and the price of task or job work has been proportionably diminished; in some cases the latter has been entirely discontinued, which seems injudicious, as tending to check instead of to foster habits of industry, and to hinder those who are willing to devote the whole of their time to working on estates, making the most of their labour. I do not hear of similar reductions yet being made in the amount of commission paid to attorneys, or in the salaries of town agents, managers, overseers, &c.; but I conclude that retrenchment under these heads is also in contemplation. The labourers generally appear to comprehend that the reduction of wages is forced upon their employers, and to acquiesce in it, under the expectation held out to them that as times mend wages will again be raised."

He says, "The suddenness of this extensive reduction of wages is to be regretted, but I am led to think that the urgency of the case admitted of no delay, and that even at the diminished cost of labour, unless the price of Sugar soon rises, the less lucrative estates will be thrown out of cultivation. Notwithstanding the present disastrous condition of these islands, it is satisfactory to believe that the social and moral improvement of the emancipated race is gradually progressing; but it must be remembered that in these essentially agricultural countries, their interests, as those of all other classes, are dependent, directly or indirectly, on the successful cultivation of the soil, and are identified with those of its proprietors."

The Petition of the Board of Council and House of Assembly of the island of Antigua enclosed in the Despatch just quoted states, "That the operation of the Act of the Imperial Parliament, 9 & 10 Victoria, c. 63, involving a competition with slave-grown Sugar, has been most disastrous to this island, paralyzing the energies of the Planter, and reducing him to hopeless despondency. That the cultivation of Antigua has been maintained by liberal wages for limited labour, and its production has been therefore comparatively costly, while the cultivation of the slave-owner is maintained by unlimited compulsory labour, and his production, therefore, including the cost of the wear and tear of his unhappy African victim, is correspondingly cheap. That the estimated cost of Sugar production in this island is from 18 *s.* to 20 *s.* per cwt., while that of slave Sugar is, at most, from 8 *s.* to 10 *s.* per cwt.: that no reduction of wages, nor other plantation economy, can enable the Colony to sustain such a contest: that it is idle to advert to improved methods of cultivation, to agricultural and manufacturing science, for these advantages are alike accessible to the slave-owner, who, rejoicing in British patronage, and flushed with his first year's victory, is preparing, with new capital and redoubled energy, to follow up his success, until our British Colonial Sugar shall be absolutely driven from the home market, and the British colonist consigned to irretrievable bankruptcy and ruin."

Francis Shand, Esq.
—

Mr. Shand, a West India Merchant, a Liverpool agent and owner, and proprietor in Antigua, gives a similar statement with regard to the comparative expense

expense of making Sugar during slavery, and at a subsequent period. He gives the average cost per hundredweight of Sugar, upon an estate at Fitcher's Creek, as follows:—

						<i>Per Cwt.</i>	
Four years before Emancipation	-	-	-	-	-	7 s. 8 d.	
In 1834-35	-	-	-	-	-	7 s. 7 d.	
In 1845-46	-	-	-	-	-	20 s. 2 d.	
In 1846-47	-	-	-	-	-	15 s. 3 d.	

Mr. Shand states here, that the labourers' wages paid last year exceeded the whole cost laid out for the aggregate of four years preceding Emancipation. On another estate of which he came into possession the year before Emancipation, namely, the Cedar Valley Estate, he says he made 2,365 cwt. of Sugar during that year, at a cost of 3 s. 4 d. per cwt. Last year he made nearly the same quantity of Sugar, viz., 2,318 cwt., which cost him 14 s. 7 d., the labourers' wages having been 860 l. 4 s. 6 d. The total expenses of the cultivation of the year preceding Emancipation were 1,071 l. 19 s., by which he means the whole expenditure on the property for managers, overseers, and so on.

Your Committee rejoice in being able to give at least one more cheering account than the rest in the following extracts from the Reports of the Stipendiary Magistrates of Antigua, for the half-year ended 31 December 1847; transmitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by the Governor of Antigua, in Despatch dated 29 February 1848:

"The number of young persons employed in field labour has increased during this half year; and I confidently repeat my conviction that in a few years a numerous native peasantry will arise to cultivate the soil, and supersede the necessity of immigration."

"A considerable decrease has taken place in the wages of field labourers in this half-year, owing to the depressed state of colonial produce, &c. &c."

"The labourers have submitted to this reduction without a murmur."

"Several instances have been reported to me in which, upon being informed of the inability of the proprietor to pay the weekly wages in specie, as heretofore, the labourers have offered to continue the cultivation, and await the sale of the crop for payment of their claims."

"The reduction of wages has had the effect of bringing more labour into the market."

"There is a small decrease of paupers, as compared with the preceding report."

"I am happy to report the increasing prosperity of the Savings Bank Institution; the amount deposited on 31 December is 1,400 l. sterling, being an increase of 800 l. on the last half-year."

ST. LUCIA.

Governor Reid, on the 31st of January 1848, writing from Barbadoes, says, "I have the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of a Despatch from the Lieutenant-governor of St. Lucia, transmitting a letter from Mr. Melcher G. Todd, a Planter and Member of Council of that island, representing that he is proprietor of one of the largest estates in St. Lucia, and lessee of two others; that he shipped 412 casks of Sugar last year, weighing 5,768 cwts., for which 4,037 l. 12 s. sterling would be received for duties in England; that the average price of the Sugar in question at the home market was 36 s., and that the cost of it to him was 38 s. 6 d. Mr. Todd's statement is a painful one to read." "I very much fear, however, that with the exception of Barbadoes, there will be found many other instances like Mr. Todd's, where the Planter is cultivating his estate at a loss, and cannot do otherwise."

Governor Reid.

D E M E R A R A.

Governor *Light*.

Governor Light, on the 31st of December 1847, writes from Demerara a Despatch to Earl Grey, received on the 3d of February 1848, "My knowledge of the very critical position of the planter interest of the Colony made me readily adopt the suggestions of the unofficial Members of the Court of Policy, to instruct the Stipendiary Magistrates by private communication to exert themselves amongst the labourers of their respective districts, in order to induce a consent to a reduction of wages, or at all events to lower their pretensions to heavy payment for the ordinary labour of the estates. In August and September 1838, when I visited the different districts of the province, I endeavoured to impress on the minds of the labourers, in opposition to their ideas of emancipation, that their sole property consisted in the industry of their hands; if they asked too much for their hands, which they were very much inclined to do, the planters would close their sugar works and abandon their cultivation. As affairs now stand one-half the sugar estates will be unable to carry on the cultivation, unless the price of labour is reduced, and the labourers will learn the truth of my doctrine." On the following day Governor Light encloses the resolutions of the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana, which state "that this Colony, being essentially agricultural, and possessing neither manufactures nor commerce, is dependent for its prosperity or decay upon the extent of its exports, and the value which they may realize in the markets of Europe. That in consequence of the recent measures of the Imperial Government, by which Sugar the produce of slave labour has been admitted to competition with Sugar the produce of free labour, the value of our colonial exports has diminished to an alarming extent, and cannot now be estimated at more than \$3,500,000, or about 700,000 *l.* sterling. That the estimate of expenditure passed for the current year amounts to \$1,083,981, or very nearly one-third in value of the total amount of our exports during the same period. That, under these circumstances of distress and exhausted resources, it has become matter of imperative necessity that an extensive reduction should be carried out in every branch of the annual expenditure. The Colony is no longer able to continue the liberal outlay which has been hitherto extended with no niggard hand in support of the civil government, and of our various public institutions, civil, ecclesiastical, educational, and eleemosynary. Many of these institutions were established after the era of freedom in 1838, and have since been maintained, and have been enlarged to the utmost limits of our resources, in order to promote the civilization and social progress of the emancipated classes. That the Civil List of 1841, amounting to the large sum of 39,072 *l.* 17 *s.* 4 *d.*, was founded on the presumption that, whatever other changes the Imperial Government might deem it necessary to introduce into the commercial relations of the mother country, Sugar the produce of slave labour would, under every contingency, continue to be excluded from admission into the home markets upon equal terms with Sugar the produce of free labour. That the Civil List of 1841, terminating on 31 December 1847, was renewed in 1844 for a period of seven years, the Colonial Legislature being impressed with the conviction that the exclusion of slave-labour Sugar from the home markets was a fundamental principle of the policy of the mother country, to which the faith of the nation had been irrevocably pledged. That the Civil List of 1841 would not have been renewed in its integrity, if the Colonial Legislature could have foreseen that the ancient landmarks of the Imperial commercial policy were so soon to be swept away, and that distress and decay, as a result of those changes, would so soon threaten to overwhelm the most important interests and most valuable institutions of this once prosperous Colony. This Court, therefore, actuated by the firm conviction that the Colony is no longer able to bear the burden of the annual expenditure hitherto incurred, considers, 1st. That the present Civil List ought to be reduced at least 25 per cent., and that Her Majesty's Government be therefore solicited to authorize his Excellency the Governor to sanction such reduction on every item of the Civil List. 2d. That a searching and rigid economy is imperatively necessary in every department of the public expenditure, so as to adapt the various institutions to the altered circumstances and

and reduced means of the Colony, and that all salaries exceeding \$ 700 per annum," about 150*l.*, "should be reduced in a corresponding ratio with the reductions in the Civil List." These resolutions, as Your House knows, were followed up by an unanimous vote of the Court of Policy, in the end of February last, acquiesced in by Governor Light, postponing the Vote of Supply to the 15th of May next, whilst on the other hand, the last intelligence from the Colony, dated the 7th March, brings home the ill-omened tidings that the native population who struck work before Christmas, were still sullenly refusing to return to their work, or to accept the reduced wages proffered to them. If any doubt, however, could exist of the distress which overwhelms the British Colonies at the present time, and must necessarily overwhelm them so long as with the dear labour to be had in the British West Indies, they have to compete with Slave-labour Sugar, it would be removed by the following tabular statement of the comparative cost of producing Sugar during Slavery and during Apprenticeship, and since the period of entire freedom, which was put in evidence before.

S T. K I T T ' S.

Your Committee present to Your House a complete table of the expenditure and receipts and working of an estate in St. Kitt's, for a series of 18 years, by Mr. Benjamin Buck Greene, the successful manager of the estates of one-third of the island of St. Kitt's, a gentleman who, it was acknowledged, even by his opponents, afforded a singular example of skilful and successful Sugar Plantation cultivation. B. B. Greene, Esq.

ST. KITTS.—COST of Producing SUGAR on Nicola Town Estate.

Y E A R.		Labour.	Other Plantation Ex- penses.	Coals and other Supplies from England.	Total Expenses.	Proceeds of Rum and Molasses.	Receipts for Old Cattle, &c. Sold from Estate.	Total Credits, exclusive of Sugar.	Net Expenditure.	Sugar.	Cost per Ton of Sugar.	Average Cost per Ton for Periods of Four Years.	Number of Slaves.	
First 4 Years of Apprentice- ship.	Last Six Years of Slavery.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	Tons.	£. s.	£. s.		
1829 1830 1831 1832 1833 1834	1829	Nil.	1,612	400	2,012	657	107	764	1,253	186	6 14	Six Years, 1829 to 1834.	4 18	33½
	1830	do.	1,463	400	1,863	783	75	858	1,005	198	5 2			33½
	1831	do.	1,376	400	1,776	680	50	730	1,046	145	7 1			33½
	1832	do.	1,324	400	1,724	855	43	860	826	185	4 8			33½
	1833	do.	1,261	500	1,761	1,136	13	1,149	612	197	3 3			33
1835 1836 1837 1838	1834	do.	1,697	900	2,597	1,230	21	1,251	646	210	3 -	Six Years, 1835 to 1838.	6 11	33
	1835	do.	1,531	1,400	2,931	1,009	52	1,061	1,072	210	5 2			
	1836	do.	1,257	800	2,057	1,008	70	1,078	979	210	4 13			
	1837	do.	1,910	800	2,710	1,093	158	1,251	1,459	211	6 17			
	1838	450	1,630	816	2,896	912	188	1,100	1,796	181	9 13			
1839 1840 1841 1842	1839	1,151	1,482	1,626	4,259	806	292	1,098	3,161	175	18 -	Six Years, 1839 to 1842.	16 19	
	1840	1,510	1,490	1,407	4,416	1,338	112	1,450	2,966	177	16 15			
	1841	1,803	1,743	887	4,433	810	50	860	3,573	206	17 7			
	1842	2,096	1,940	803	4,839	925	128	1,053	3,786	240	15 15			
	1843	2,306	2,345	836	5,487	793	178	971	4,516	199	22 15			
1844 1845 1846	1844	2,421	1,759	891	5,071	574	280	854	4,217	104	21 15	Six Years, 1843 to 1846.	21 11	
	1845	2,239	1,888	750	4,877	609	400	1,009	3,868	153	25 7			
	1846	1,697	1,348	632	3,677	850	330	1,180	2,497	155	16 2			

TRINIDAD.

C. Marryat, Esq.

St. Kitt's at once remarkable for the number of its absentee proprietors, and for the increase of its produce as compared with Slavery.

Mr. Charles Marryat, a proprietor and merchant connected with Trinidad and St. Lucia, informed the Committee that he had paid three visits to his properties, and gave in the following comparative imports of Sugar from nine principal West India colonies for the last three years of Slavery, 1831, 1832, and 1833, and the three years 1844, 1845, and 1846; and Your House will observe that out of those nine colonies there has been a decrease on all, with the exception of Trinidad, Antigua, and St. Kitt's; St. Kitt's showing a remarkable example of an increase of 26 and 8-10ths per cent. in its produce of Sugar on the average of the three last years named as compared with the three last years of Slavery, whilst Your House will recollect that this very island of St. Kitt's is the one which stands most remarkable for the numbers of its absentee proprietors:—

COLONIES.	TONS OF SUGAR.		INCREASE OR DECREASE, AS COMPARING AVERAGE 1831-33 WITH 1844-46.
	1831-33.	1844-46.	
Jamaica - - - -	68,629	30,807	58 $\frac{1}{10}$ per cent. decrease.
Guiana - - - -	44,178	24,817	43 $\frac{8}{10}$ - ditto.
St. Vincent - - -	10,056	6,636	36 - ditto.
Grenada - - - -	9,634	3,979	60 $\frac{7}{10}$ - ditto.
Tobago - - - -	5,321	2,514	52 $\frac{7}{10}$ - ditto.
	137,818	68,553	50 $\frac{3}{10}$ - ditto.
Barbadoes - - -	17,174	16,378	4 $\frac{6}{10}$ decrease.
Antigua - - - -	7,767	8,963	15 $\frac{8}{10}$ increase.
St. Kitts - - - -	4,382	5,588	26 $\frac{8}{10}$ ditto.
	29,323	30,899	5 $\frac{3}{10}$ ditto.
Trinidad - - - -	15,428	16,539	7 $\frac{2}{10}$ ditto.
TOTAL - - - -	182,569	105,991	36 $\frac{5}{10}$ decrease.

Increase of produce *pari passu* with increased immigration.

The next statement Your Committee has to present to The House is one of the comparative crops of Sugar in Trinidad, commencing with the average of 1831, 1832, and 1833, being the last three years of Slavery, with the immigration of free labourers into the island in each year, and from this Your House will learn that by dint of an importation of fresh labour the decrease which in 1840 had got to be upwards of 20 per cent., grew, in 1845, to an increase of 18 per cent., and in 1846 to 14 per cent.:—

YEARS.	TONS OF SUGAR.	INCREASE OR DECREASE.	NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS.
1831-33 - - -	15,423	- - - -	—
1834 - - - -	16,980	10 per cent. increase.	—
1835 - - - -	14,469	6 $\frac{2}{10}$ " decrease.	—
1836 - - - -	15,607	1 $\frac{1}{10}$ " increase.	—
1837 - - - -	14,768	4 $\frac{3}{10}$ " decrease.	—
1838 - - - -	14,312	7 $\frac{2}{10}$ " ditto	—
1839 - - - -	13,433	12 $\frac{7}{10}$ " ditto	1,006
1840 - - - -	12,288	20 $\frac{9}{10}$ " ditto	2,015
1841 - - - -	14,080	8 $\frac{7}{10}$ " ditto	1,952
1842 - - - -	14,306	7 $\frac{7}{10}$ " ditto	2,872
1843 - - - -	16,108	4 $\frac{8}{10}$ " ditto	2,843
1844 - - - -	13,729	11 " ditto	2,530
1845 - - - -	18,207	18 " increase	1,635
1846 - - - -	17,614	14 $\frac{5}{10}$ " ditto	2,935

Mr.

Mr. Marryat states, that in 1845 and 1846 the crops on one of his Trinidad estates were raised, by increased exertions and outlay, at an expense, in 1845, of 47*s.* per cwt., and in 1846, of 41*s.* per cwt. But the result of his outlay has been, that instead of about 200 hogsheads, the crop of 1845, produced at a cost of 47*s.* per cwt., he has obtained 480 hogsheads, in 1847, at a cost of about 20*s.* The amount of produce might be still increased, and the expenses reduced, if immigration is allowed to be extended. It entirely depends upon immigration. The House will recollect that the evidence throughout goes to show that the old plant set up during Slavery is far beyond the requirements of the reduced produce since the entire Emancipation of the slaves. Thus the cost of the plant for the manufacture of Sugar remaining the same, the increased production of the cane-field practically operates as a great reduction in the average cost of each cwt. of Sugar. Mr. Marryat claims (the cost being at present 10*s.* of producing Sugar in Trinidad) a protection of 10*s.* per cwt. to enable him to compete with the foreigner.

Protection of 10*s.* would enable him to compete with the foreigner.

He complains that the immigration of Coolies is a great deal too expensive; that the difference between the expense of importing a Coolie and importing an African is the difference between 7*l.* and very nearly 25*l.*; 15*l.* for the passage of the Coolie out, with the liability to a passage back. Asked whether when he gets the Coolie the Coolie does half the work of the African? He answers, that there is a great difference of opinion about that; he has no personal knowledge of the matter; he knows that some parties are very well satisfied with them, others are not. The difficulty has been the want of proper laws in the colony to keep them steady to their work. Asked if he knows whether, so long as Major Fagan's Ordinance respecting Coolie contracts remained in force, the Coolies worked well, and that things had gone wrong since that Ordinance had been annulled? He answers, "My correspondence goes to that effect." Asked if any attempt was made to bring Chinese to Trinidad? He answers, "There was authority given by the Government to go to China, in 1843, to obtain Chinese from Singapore, but it was accompanied by restrictions so complicated and so great, that nobody acted upon it; they found that it did not do." Asked if the Order in Council, dated the 7th of September 1838, of which he had spoken, still remained in force? He answers, "No; it has been modified lately, but it was only in April 1847, I think, that it was modified to any extent in Trinidad with regard to contracts." Asked if it has not been improved now? He answers, "So far that you may enter into a contract, but the terms are so advantageous to the immigrants that it counteracts the benefit of it to a great degree." Asked if the last form of contract, to which Lord Grey assented, as amended by Lord Harris, is not tolerably satisfactory to the colony? He answers, "The Ordinance of the 22d of April 1847 is the last one; it throws the whole expense of importing the immigrant upon the party who employs him. The immigrant is entitled to claim the current rate of wages of the colony, and besides that he has the power, upon giving notice, of throwing up his contract at the end of six months, upon paying a portion of the expense of bringing him there; so that the planter, at all events, has the expense of bringing him, and has still to pay him the same rate of wages as he would any other resident labourer." He says that a labourer does not become a skilful labourer in the various departments of Sugar cultivation until he has been nearly two years upon the plantation. Asked if the effect of the present regulation is not that the planter only secures the labourer for six months, and then he runs away and gets to the bush? He answers, "I am not aware that this has been acted upon. I do not think anybody has ventured to introduce immigrants upon those terms; I have not heard of any." At another period of his evidence he says: "The United States' people were very good, hard-working people, but I do not think they remain there, a great many of them, now." "They made an immense deal of money, and went back. They used, some of them, to do as much as three tasks a day." A task was 2*s.* at that time, so that they actually got 6*s.* a day. Asked about the Rio Janeiro Liberated Africans, and what they got? He answers, "They at first were not nearly so effective; they had to be taught everything." "They were very useful at the end of the year," but certainly not at all equal to the Americans. That a raw imported African is certainly much less competent than a civilized labourer. Asked if it is his opinion that those immigrants brought at the public expense did not prove half so useful

Difference in cost between an African and a Coolie.

Great difficulty, the want of proper laws to keep them steady.

An imported labourer does not become a skilful labourer under two years, but under the Colonial Office regulation the Planter, in addition to the expense of importing him, has to pay him the wages of a skilled labourer.

Mischief of Government interference.

as immigrants introduced by individuals would have been? He answers, "I think if they had been under some contract, or under some restraint, they would have been much more useful;" and that if the immigration had been left to private enterprise the planters or merchants would have taken more care in the selection. The following questions were put to him, to which he gave the answers attached:—

"10300. You were understood to state that what was especially required was an indenture for longer service, so that those who were at the cost of importing labourers should have a compensation of a longer period of service?—Yes; the great advantage of that would have been that it would have ensured a greater quantity of continuous labour.

"10301. Is not there also another great advantage which you all look to by longer indentures, that you would thereby get the emigrants located and attached to the soil, and to a certain extent fixed to the soil?—Yes; there is an impression that if they were settled on a particular estate for a time, they would be induced, by proper treatment, to remain there.

Thinks three years' contracts preferable to five.

"10302. You think that probably, if they were under contract for two or three or five years, they would settle, and probably marry, and remain fixed to the estates to which they first went?—I am not in favour of too long a contract.

"10303. How long a contract do you think desirable?—I think three years the extent."

"10305. And you think that it should be part of the contract, that the African should not be allowed to leave the service of the importer till he had repaid the cost of his importation to him, or till a new employer hiring him, should repay to him the cost of the importation?—I think that would be fair.

"10306. Were contracts often entered into between the immigrants imported by the Government and the planters?—Never, I believe; I am not aware of any; they were discouraged, in fact.

Discouragement given to immigrants to enter into contracts by the Government officers.

"10307. Were they discouraged by the Government immigration officers going on board the immigrant vessels, and dissuading the people from entering into engagements?—It was the practice of the Government immigration agent to go on board, and ask them if they were under contract, and tell them if they were that the contracts were not binding, which naturally made them suppose that contracts were not good things, and that the Government disapproved of them.

"10308. Those proceedings excited distrust in the minds of the new comers, and a prejudice against entering into contracts?—I believe they did."

Injurious consequences of squatting; Lord Harris going to do now what Lord Glenelg said should have been done in 1836.

He says, "A great deal of the benefit of immigration has been neutralized by the number of people who are able to retire and squat." Nothing effectual has been done by the Government to prevent it. "Lord Glenelg pointed out the necessity of taking measures to prevent it in 1836; but in this Parliamentary paper which I referred to just now, there is a letter from Lord Harris, from which it appeared that he is only going to do now what Lord Glenelg stated ought to have been done in 1836." That measure was a measure to prevent squatting on the Crown lands. Asked what distinction he draws between squatters on the Crown lands and squatters on the abandoned estates of the proprietors; he shows that there is this essential difference, that as one estate joins another, the squatters upon abandoned estates would come within the range of civilization, and within the reach of the estates. The Crown lands generally are out of reach for the squatters upon them to give their labour upon Sugar estates. But he says that he would have the Government do more than that, and where estates are abandoned, and the proprietors are not known, he thinks the Government should take charge of those estates and prevent the people squatting there. Asked if the fact is not that, as far as improvements and enterprise are concerned, Trinidad has been rather overdone, the proprietors having sent out more machinery and built more mills than they had labourers to work and crop to occupy them, he answers, "Yes, all improved machinery requires, while it is at work, an increased quantity of labour." With respect to the expenditure of the Island, he says the expenditure merely of the Civil Government for Judicial and Ecclesiastical Establishments, Education and Police, these four things have increased so much that in 1833 it was 22,280 l.; in 1842, 38,747 l.; in 1846, 33,742 l. The great increase is in the Ecclesiastical charges, Education and Police.

Government should take charge of abandoned estates.

Police. The number of tons of sugar the Island exports is 17,000. The increase in the expenditure generally of the colony since Emancipation has been from 35,120 *l.* in 1833, to 85,527 *l.* in 1846. But this 85,000 *l.* includes 20,000 *l.* for immigration, so that exclusively of immigration the expenditure has increased from 35,000 *l.* to 65,000 *l.* The Police have increased from 200 *l.* a year in 1833, to 13,400 *l.* in 1846. This, however, he says, is to be accounted for by the fact that during slavery there was no police; it was a domestic police, and he does not think that there could be a large diminution with regard to the police. The Island is 90 miles long and 50 miles wide; the population 80,000, acreage 1,300,000; that under sugar cultivation not more than 20,000. He says that the total expenditure for the year 1848 would be 100,175 *l.* 13 *s.* 4 *d.*, but this includes 25,000 *l.* which was to be raised by loan for immigration. But nobody would even bid for it, although the rate of interest was six per cent., and the rate of tender was optional. He is asked what number of negroes it would be sufficient to introduce annually into the colony. He answers that he does not think it would require any greater number now, in addition to the present population; he thinks 5,000 a year would have a very great effect in materially reducing and keeping down the price of labour. He says he does not believe the whole of the present crop will be taken off for want of means; that the merchants have, generally speaking, refused to advance money upon the produce of this year; that a great many Bills have gone back protested; that the last accounts represent the colony as being in a prostrate state. He says the price of labour has been reduced to 1 *s.* 3 *d.* a day to the labourer having his cottage and provision ground. The highest rate obtained within the last three years was 2 *s.* There are now 17,000 efficient labourers on the Sugar estates in Trinidad; that at least is stated in a letter from a Special Magistrate, and stands upon the authority of Lord Harris's Report. He is asked if he has any information as to the cost of Sugar per ton during slavery, and he says, "I have not; the estate came to our hands just about the time of Emancipation. I know that in Apprenticeship the estate produced a revenue of 1,700 *l.* a year. The cost of Sugar per ton varies very much.

Enormous growth of Colonial Expenditure.

An annual importation of 5,000 Africans would suffice for Trinidad.

In 1845 it was as much as	-	-	-	47 <i>s.</i> a cwt.
1846 " "	-	-	-	31 <i>s.</i> "
1847 " "	-	-	-	20 <i>s.</i> "

The quantities produced on the estate were—

In 1846	-	-	-	-	-	-	310 hogsheads.
1847	-	-	-	-	-	-	484 "

So that it was by reason of the large increase in the production that the average cost was reduced. Asked if he believes that it would restore confidence to the minds of the planters in Trinidad if this country were to impose a protecting duty of 10 *s.* a cwt.; he answers, "I believe the result would be that they would retain many estates in cultivation which would be left to take their course otherwise."

Requires 10 *s.* per cwt. protecting duty.

Having stated that the cost of the production of Sugar came last year to 20 *l.* a ton, and that 10 *l.* a ton was caused by labour, he is asked if the protection of 10 *l.* a ton which he claims would not just give him his Sugar without any cost for labour, and if, in his opinion, under that protection he could successfully compete with slave-grown Sugar, he answers: "A 10 *s.* protecting duty would not give us 10 *s.* really, or anything like it; it is nominally 6 *s.* now, but it is not that really."

The state of Trinidad is so well told in the following copy of a Despatch from Governor Lord Harris to Earl Grey, that it is sufficient to present it in its original shape to The House:—

"My Lord,

"Trinidad, 18 September 1847.

(Received 22 October 1847.)

"I HAVE been requested to forward a copy of petition which has been lately prepared in this island, and which is addressed to the Members of the House of Commons,

Despatch of Lord
Harris on the distress
of Trinidad.

"I feel that it is unnecessary for me to recommend any document coming from a British colony to your Lordship's consideration, as I am satisfied that it is certain to receive every proper attention from you.

"I have already mentioned to your Lordship the distress existing at this time in the colony, and which is increasing daily, and amounts to an unprecedented stagnation of business, the cases of which are constantly brought to my notice; viz. estates having the finest promise of a larger crop than was ever previously produced, being almost abandoned from the want of means to pay for the necessary labour, are most distressing.

"I have also stated the chief cause of this, which is, though it is to a certain extent produced by the state of the money market, that the prices received for sugar this year will not repay the cost of its production; the planters are mostly without capital, many of them encumbered with debt, and nearly all accustomed to keep up the cultivation of their lands by advances from capitalists on the security of the coming crop; but, from the knowledge of the above-mentioned facts, and from the badness of future prospects, the capitalists will not advance any money at all; the consequence is, that the estates are obliged to be neglected, and necessarily, the production must decrease both in quality and quantity.

"Without entering into any of the details mentioned in the petition, either concerning anticipated concessions, or as applicable to future remedies, I do not hesitate to express to your Lordship my conviction, that if this colony is not to be left to subside into a state of comparative barbarism, which would result from the ruin of its larger proprietors, that some more than ordinary relief is necessary to support it in the contest in which it, in common with the other British West Indian Colonies, is now engaged. Circumstanced as it is, I believe it incapable of successfully competing in the British market with the produce of countries in which slavery is still permitted, unless the advantages of free trade are conceded to it as well as the disadvantages; and I would add, that relief should come speedily, if it is to produce any effect.

"I have, &c.
(signed) "Harris."

In further corroboration of the bankrupt state of Trinidad, Your Committee add a subsequent Despatch from the same Governor to Earl Grey, dated 6th December 1847:—

"Trinidad, 6 December 1847.

(Received 3 January 1848.)

"My Lord,

"I FEEL myself obliged to call your attention to my Despatch, No. 68, dated 20th July, in order that I may be prepared to liquidate the calls which may be expected to be made on the treasury of this island within the next six months.

"I have delayed as long as possible troubling your Lordship on this matter, knowing the difficulties with which the home Government has to contend, but as the money will be absolutely required before long to fulfil the engagements of the island, and to support its credit, and as I have no means to meet the demand, it is absolutely necessary for me to request some instructions on the subject.

"In the Despatch to which I have referred, I stated to your Lordship 'that I cannot prudently hold out any hopes of being able to support the credit of the island until January, without the assistance of 10,000 l., though less may suffice.' Up to the present time, though often reduced very low, the treasury has been able to answer all demands, but there will be a want of 6,000 l. to liquidate the salaries and other expenses of the present quarter. As I stated this so long ago as last July, I had hoped to receive some communication on the subject; but in consequence of such not being the case, I have entered into communication with the colonial bank, respecting the offer made some time since of a loan of 6,000 l. at 8 per cent., and find that it is very questionable whether it will be able to enter into the transaction, more especially as I cannot at present answer for its repayment within the period of six months. I shall, however, make every exertion to meet the difficulty, which is not a little increased by the stoppage of the branch of the West India Bank established in Port of Spain.

"I shall be obliged to your Lordship for instructions as to how the expenses of immigration, which will require payment in the spring, are to be met.

"The

Despatch of Lord
Harris stating the in-
solventcy of the Trin-
idad Treasury.

The Trinidad Treasury
unable to obtain a
loan of 6,000 l.

"The 'Growler' may be expected shortly, and if as many Africans are imported as were carried by her in her last trip to Demerara, their passage-money will amount to about 5,000 *l*.

"There is at present 8,000 *l*. belonging to the colony invested in Exchequer Bills; after deducting the 5,000 *l*. for Africans, there will remain but 3,000 *l*. to its credit in England. The expenses of coolie immigration will be rather less than 20,000 *l*., and I cannot hold out the slightest hope of being able either to pay that sum here, or to transmit money to England for that purpose.

Trinidad unable to take up her liabilities for Coolie Immigration.

"I have, &c.

(signed) "Harris."

The following Despatch is so important, that with very slight curtailment it is presented to The House :—

"Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Lord Harris to Earl Grey.

"My Lord,

Trinidad, 21 February 1848.

"I HAVE the honour to forward to you, by this mail, the Blue Book of this colony for the year 1847.

The items which require any particular notice from me are, first the diminution of revenue under the head of imports, which amounts to 7,596 *l*. 6s. 8d. as compared with 1846 :

Falling off of the

	£.	s.	d.
1846	62,703	19	11
1847	55,107	12	3

"The decrease as compared with the whole receipts is considerable; it may be partly accounted for from the unnecessarily large importation which had taken place in previous years, and partly from the general depression which occurred during the latter portion of the year.

"It is a matter for some question how far any rapid increase in the consumption of superfluities may be counted on for the future, and whether the population of the island, when it is put to the trial, will, as money becomes scarcer, prefer to procure luxuries by increased exertion, or will relinquish them rather than undergo greater physical labour.

"This is still a doubtful point, and will probably take some time to decide; but the tendency at present is, I fear, in the latter direction.

"The principal articles in which the decrease has taken place are, cottons, linens and silks, boots and shoes, and hardware.

Decreasing importations of cotton, linens, silks, boots, shoes, and hardware.

"There is a very slight increase in the exports occasioned by a larger crop, and a more extensive shipment of rum.

"The quantity of sugar exported last year was 44,665,600 lbs., estimated value, 382,551 *l*.; that of 1846 was 37,901,800 lbs., estimated value 414,110 *l*.; but the prices being much lower, the duty diminished accordingly.

Contrast between increase of crop and decrease of value.

"I fear that no great improvement can be expected on this item for the present or the succeeding year, and in consequence of the probable diminution of the quantity of land which will be cultivated for the future, an increase cannot be counted on for some time.

"I had hoped to have forwarded to your Lordship a return showing the average cost of cultivating the sugar cane; of the manufacture of the sugar, the quantity produced per acre, with some other information, in the several English, French, Spanish, and Danish islands. The information has been collected and is still collecting for me, by Dr. Mitchell, a physician of this island, who I believe possesses as much practical and scientific knowledge on these subjects as can well be combined in one person, and who has been travelling through the islands for me, in order to acquire a knowledge of the latest improvements of every kind. It has, however, been found so difficult to make any approach to average statements in numbers, that I am obliged to wait for further information; what I have actually collected goes to show, that in the English colonies the sugar has been produced at a considerable loss at the late prices.

Sugar in English colonies produced at a considerable loss.

"There are, however, estates in most of the islands where skill, science, and economy have been brought to bear, and which have made a fair return for the capital expended.

Average in the English Islands: 16s. 8d. to 20s. 2d. (i. e. 22s. 11d.)

"On the best managed estates in the English islands, a cwt. of sugar may be produced for 10s. 5d.; but the average range is from 16s. 8d. to 17s. 2d.; in Martinique, to 15s. 10d.; in Guadaloupe, the same; in Santa Cruz, from 9s. 2½d. to 10s. 6d.; Porto Rico, cheaper; of Cuba I have no correct information, but from 2s. 1d. to 4s. 2d., which is the same as it was in Trinidad, I have heard, during the existence of slavery.

Cost of making Sugar: 16s. 8d. to 20s. 10d.

Average, 18s. 9d.

Price of Sugar: 15s. 11½d.

"In Trinidad, I believe, no sugar has been produced at a less cost than 12s. 6d. per cwt., but the average is between 16s. 8d. and 20s. 10d. Now I find that the average price in the colony, for the last six months of 1847, was 15s. 11½d.*; so that the mere production costs more than could be obtained in the market, leaving nothing for the interest of capital, reserve for loss, &c. &c.

1s. 3d. for four or five hours.

"Wages in Trinidad, 1s. 3d. per task, which takes from four to five hours work. It is very rare to hear of two tasks being done in a day by the same man.

"1s. 8d. per day of eight hours.

"In Jamaica, 1s. to 1s. 6d. per day.

In Barbadoes, 6½d. per day.

In St. Lucia, 1s. 3d. per day.

In Grenada, 1s. per day.

In Santa Cruz, free labour, 1s. 8d. per day.

Barbadoes alone equal to the French slave islands.

"In Guadaloupe and Martinique the cost of the keep of a slave, for the year, is 9l. 3s., or 6d. per day; so that Barbadoes is the only English island at all on an equality with the French, so far as cost of labour is concerned; but there the slave can be made to work any number of hours in the 24 his master may order.

"But besides the mere cost, another important point should be added, which is, that the *sugar made in the slave countries is decidedly superior to that produced by free labour*; and this is not altogether owing to the greater care, or the superior machinery they possess; for it will be found that the quality of the sugar has deteriorated in many of our colonies since emancipation, which can only be attributed to the difficulty of procuring experienced labourers, or such as will take sufficient pains to ensure the production of a good article.

"Such a state of things has of course been felt most severely; but I am happy to say that, though greatly dispirited, the planters are exerting themselves almost universally to improve the quality of their sugar, and to diminish the cost of production. Much may yet be done, by the introduction of implemental husbandry and machinery; but as their slave-possessing opponents are equally well, if not better, provided with these, it is very questionable how far they can succeed in the struggle.

"There is but a very small increase under the head of Crown Lands. I have been able to do little more at present than prepare for future improvements. A proclamation was issued offering grants, under the conditions sanctioned by your Lordship; the returns of applicants are not yet completed. The village of Arima has been sold in lots; I hear that some activity, in consequence, may now be seen in its streets. The village of Aronea has been laid out, and a good many lots purchased; and I hope in a short time to have three or four more villages in progress in different parts of the country.

"The failure of the West India Bank has prevented many of the peasantry from becoming purchasers, as great numbers of that class had hoarded their notes; there appears to be still a great prejudice amongst them against entrusting their money to the savings bank.

"It is, however, necessary to proceed with considerable caution in the sale even of village lots. *There is a marked inclination in the population to retire to any spot of land they can purchase, instead of continuing to work as hired labourers*; and though it may be of minute proportions, yet it is considered at once as an independence, whether it be sufficient to support them and their families, or not.

"The frequent division of properties amongst the members of families facilitates these purchases greatly. As the portions become too small to be carried on,

on, for instance, as coffee or cocoa estates, they are sold in small lots, and are thenceforward turned by the purchasers into badly cultivated provision grounds. Though this description of settler has become very numerous, yet no market can be worse supplied with fruit and vegetables than Port of Spain, and the population depends almost entirely on the Main for the larger sort of provisions, such as yams, plantains, and sweet potatoes.

"The increase of the public expenditure has been occasioned, as your Lordship is aware, mainly by immigration and the public buildings. The courthouse will be finished and occupied next month, by which 450 l. per annum, the amount of rent for the premises at present used for that purpose, will be saved to the colony.

Increase of public expenditure, how incurred.

"Of the ordinances which were passed by the Legislative Council, that for the encouragement of immigration, &c., No. 9 of 1847, alone requires any lengthened notice from me.

"I cannot say that it has succeeded to my satisfaction. The causes of its failure I attribute partly to the very depressed circumstances of the planters at the time of its being brought into force, and the general conviction that the Coolies would not remain on the estates, consequently inducing a small demand for the Coolies, and partly to its want of adaptation to the localities and the population with which it was intended to deal.

Failure of the immigration ordinance.

"The ordinance was brought into force on the 7th June last year, and orders were issued to Major Fagan, the Cooly magistrate, to proceed as rapidly as possible to the several estates in the island to explain the conditions of the law to the proprietors and the Coolies, and to draw out the contracts for all who should be desirous of entering into them. The stipendiary magistrates were also required to render every assistance, and as much as possible to prepare both parties for the Cooly magistrate's visit.

"At the end of Major Fagan's tour, it was found that the number of estates which had taken Coolies on contract, and the number of Coolies under contract, were as follows:—

Number of estates taking Coolies under contract	-	-	46
Number of estates taking Coolies under the monthly tax,			25
Number of Coolies taken under contract	-	-	1,204
Number of Coolies taken under monthly tax	-	-	371
Number of Coolies under contract and monthly tax	-		1,575
Number of Coolies in the island	-	-	4,357

"Of the 46 estates, the proprietors or managers of 29 paid the 2l. per head as required; the others gave bills on their agents in town, which were dishonoured, and which remain unpaid to the present day.

Bills dishonoured.

"I should have proceeded to require payment had I not found that the means were not forthcoming, and had the Coolies not for the most part left the estates and broken their contracts before I learnt the fate of the bills which had been given by the planters.

"In fact it was discovered afterwards that many of them left the estates within a week of entering into the contract, but no pains were taken to give the government any information of it. It was even stated to me, on pretty good authority, that on some estates the Coolies were concealed during the visit of Major Fagan, and brought back to their work when he had left that part of the country.

"I have said above that the want of means was one cause why contracts were not generally entered into by the planters. I have on previous occasions described to your Lordship how entirely the greater number of them depend upon advances from merchants for the carrying on their estates, and it has been impossible for them for the most part to procure any at all this year. Money has lately been borrowed in Port of Spain at 45 per cent., and many were therefore unable to pay the tax required upon taking contract Coolies.

Money at 45 per cent.

"But there was also a general feeling that the provisions of the ordinance were not sufficiently stringent to warrant their advancing the sum required.

Provisions of ordinance not sufficiently stringent.

"That such has turned out to be the case there can be no doubt. I shall proceed to explain why it appears to me that it was likely to happen.

"Your Lordship will remember that the withdrawal of some rules which I had established, respecting the management of the Coolies, was required by

Mischievous results of Lord Grey's ill-advised despatch of

15 September 1846,
cancelling some of
Lord Harris's rules
for the management
of Coolies.

a despatch dated 15 September 1846,* and they were accordingly cancelled on the 17th of October following.

"The chief principle on which those rules were grounded, was the *keeping the Coolies on the estates to which they were allowed by a system of leave tickets and passes*, and the ensuring a fulfilment of the agreement made on both sides, by a just and constant surveillance by the Cooly magistrate.

"Doubtless there were numerous faults in those rules; from the circumstances of the case they had been drawn up at very short notice, but all will allow, who had the opportunity of judging, that during their operation the *Coolies were healthy, well clothed, generally contented, and improving daily in habits of industry.*

"On the withdrawal of those rules, they gradually returned to the habits which are natural to them; they left the estates, and were to be seen wandering about the country in bands, and by the time that the immigration ordinance came into force, but few were remaining on the properties on which they had been originally located.

"I must now explain how the provisions of that ordinance did not serve to correct the evil. On entering into contract, the Coolies were liable on breaking their engagement to certain penalties. In order to enforce these, it was necessary first that the delinquents should be caught, and then brought before a justice of the peace. Now the great difficulty is, in this country, *to get such penalties to bear at all upon the delinquents.*

"Your Lordship must remember that the Sugar estates in this colony, comprising at the most an extent of 32,000 acres, are scattered over an area of 1,200,000, and that though in some districts they are closely packed, in others they are separated by extensive forests, and that even where the estates are adjoining one another, *the roads are for some months in the year almost impassable for horsemen.*

"A proprietor or manager on finding that his Coolies have left the estates, would first of all have to discover in what direction they had proceeded, no easy matter in a thinly populated country, and chiefly forest land. If he get information of their course, he must then either himself leave his estate or send his overseer, by which loss is certain to accrue to him, (*for I can assure your Lordship, whatever you may hear to the contrary, that it requires strict, constant, and untiring watchfulness to procure the very sparing and very imperfect labour of the Creole from him*), and he may probably go after all in the wrong direction, and never fall in with the Coolies, but if he do, then he has to lose more days in appearing at police offices, &c.

"The result has been that I know of only *one instance* in which the proprietor has attempted to recover the Coolies.

"The consequence of their re-adoption of their wandering habits have been most distressing. I was induced, from numbers being found destitute, sick, and starving in the roads, to establish two hospitals for their reception, one at Port of Spain, and the other at San Fernando, both under the superintendence of the surgeon of the colonial hospital. The returns of the last eight months have shown an average of between 200 and 300 people to provide for instead of 90, which had been the previous average. Since last June 250 Coolies have died in the hospital, and great numbers in other places; in fact scarcely a week passes but reports are sent from different parts of the country, *of the skeletons of Coolies being found in the woods and cane-pieces.* I believe that in no country has greater suffering been undergone than by these unfortunate people in the shape of disease, starvation, and ultimate death; and to those who have had to witness it daily it has been most distressing. Such being the state of the contracts, it was impossible to carry out the monthly tax provision; the principle of the law depended, I imagine, on the supposition that there would be a demand for all under contract; that not being the case, and the Coolies declaring their willingness to enter into contract, they could hardly be forced to pay the tax. In addition, it would have been impossible to enforce it, in consequence of their inability to pay, for the wages of numbers have been in arrear for a long time, as much as three and four months.

"The scarcity of money is and has been so great, that on the arrival of the Africans by the 'Growler,' I was informed that though willing to take them, no one could afford to pay the tax, and I was obliged to take bills at three months or else I must have kept the immigrants on my hands.

"With

Result of Lord Grey's
relaxations, that
scarcely a week passes
but skeletons of
Coolies are found in
the woods and cane-
pieces.

" With respect to the Coolies who have arrived the case was even worse ; for two days I waited, and not a single application was received for any one of them. The immigration agent-general was sent to inquire if any would take them, but all declined, and I was at length obliged to distribute them amongst six estates, the agents of which offered to take them on making no payment at all.

" Had it been in my power I was resolved to retain these people, and employ them for the government, and I would have done so at first with all the Coolies but that it would have required an army to collect them and keep them in custody ; and besides, your Lordship is aware of the pecuniary difficulties in which I have been, and still am placed ; that I have at times scarcely enough in the treasury to liquidate the most ordinary calls for hospitals, *gaol*, and *police*, and I should therefore have been utterly unable to support these Coolies for more than a few days, and must have yielded at last to circumstances.

No money in the treasury to liquidate ordinary calls of hospitals, gaol, and police.

" I have felt and still feel myself in a most disagreeable position respecting the state of the immigrants ; there is nothing more objectionable than to allow the provisions of any law to fall into desuetude ; but every point upon which I might have expected support, the very ground on which the law was framed, have failed me.

" 1st. There was not a demand even for half the Coolies.

" 2d. Then the pecuniary destitution of the planters.

" 3d. Their indifference or inability to see the law carried out.

" I have felt also the more anxious for the success of this law because it did not emanate from myself. I have no doubt of the wisdom of the principle which your Lordship laid down, that we should seek ' to place them (the immigrants) in a situation in which they might be acted upon by the same motives by which men are impelled to labour in industrious countries.'

Failure of Lord Grey's Coolie immigrant law.

" Now I would, with all deference, submit that it is, from what I have already shown, impossible to place the immigrant in a situation similar to that of labourers in industrious countries, the circumstances of the countries, of the facilities for communication, for travelling, for justice, for police, being so very different.

" I have, moreover, great doubts whether the Coolie and the African are morally or mentally capable of being acted upon by the same motives in this island on their first arrival as labourers are in more civilized countries. That one which urges the mere support of animal existence will not induce them to continuous and skilful labour when their wants can be supplied by the most parsimonious use of their muscles. The fear of the law, it is manifest, is not very readily brought to bear on them. Luxuries they do not generally know of or require. The only independence which they would desire is idleness, according to their different tastes in the enjoyment of it. And then the higher motives which actuate the European labourer (and we must remember the vast difference there is even in Europe with respect to the industry of various races,) which are above and beyond circumstances irrespective of mere self interest, which he has received as his patrimony from previous generations, and which I believe, even in this age, are still to be found prevailing amongst them, viz., that to be industrious is a duty and a virtue ; that to be independent in circumstances, whatever his station, raises a man in the moral scale amongst his race, and that his ability to perform his duties as a citizen, and there we may add as a Christian, is increased by it. *These, and such motives as these, are unknown to the fatalist worshippers of Mahomet and Bramah, and to the savages who go by the name of liberated Africans.*

" A proof of this, and a marked difference, may be seen daily in the vicinity of Port of Spain. The Portuguese are chiefly settled in the town or its vicinity as gardeners, &c., their services are at a premium, their work is on the whole more valuable, they get higher wages than the African, the Coolie, or the Creole, so that their circumstances are at least as good, in fact better, for they live more economically. Yet at four o'clock, when their day's task is over, they are to be seen not idling about the grog shops, or loitering about the streets, but employing the remaining hours of daylight in cutting up wood wherever they get leave to do so, and carrying logs or bundles of it into town for sale ; but no such idea had ever entered the heads of the others, and now when times are altered, when provisions are scarce and dear, and money hardly to be got,

Superiority of the Portuguese.

they have not shown any symptoms of following the example, or of employing their extra time profitably.

“After having given my best consideration to the subject, it appears to me that in the first place the immigrants must pass through an initiatory process. They are not, neither Coolies nor African, fit to be placed in a position which the labourers of civilized countries may at once occupy; *they must be treated like children, and wayward ones too; the former from their habits and their religion, the latter from the utterly savage state in which they arrive.*

“They must serve an apprenticeship; if not, if suffered to go at large, the consequences to the Coolies have been only too extensively and sadly developed in Jamaica, in Demerara, and in Trinidad. As to the African, he for the most part lives, but he remains a savage, and frequently leaves the cultivated lands and joins his countrymen at one of the several villages which they have been permitted to establish. Here again when he has once escaped, the proprietor and the law are baffled; if search is made, where in the forests is he to be looked for? If tracked to a village he is not to be found; he can always elude the seekers, who seldom take the trouble to return for him a second time.

“To show your Lordship how necessary it is that if immigration is to be continued some stricter surveillance must be adopted, I give a Return which I called for last November, and which was made on the 30th of that month. The returns were sent from every Sugar estate but one, and from most of the large Cocoa properties in the island. The statement shows the number of men, women, and children located on the estates, or working on that day, to which is added the number of Creoles, most of whom are slaves liberated in 1838, or their descendants.

Absolute necessity
that the immigrants
should serve an
apprenticeship.

COUNTRIES WHENCE IMPORTED.	Number of Immigrants Imported.
Old Islanders - - - - -	11,339
Africans - - - - -	3,990
Coolies - - - - -	4,359
Americans (free black) - - - - -	1,301
Portuguese - - - - -	962
Saba - - - - -	64
TOTAL Immigrants - - - - -	22,015
Natives of Trinidad emancipated in 1838 - - - - -	20,656
	42,671

COUNTRIES WHENCE IMPORTED.	Number Remaining on Estates.	C o s t .	Average Cost per Head.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Old Islanders - - - - -	2,641	26,790 8 4	10 3 -
Africans - - - - -	2,154	30,695 7 8	14 5 -
Coolies - - - - -	2,110	78,013 13 5	37 - -
Americans - - - - -	148	8,131 5 -	54 18 11
Portuguese - - - - -	119	7,014 1 8	58 18 10
Saba - - - - -	- - -	200 - -	- - -
	7,172	150,844 16 1	21 - 2
Natives of Trinidad emancipated in 1833	3,166	1,184,964 16 3	374 - -
	10,338	1,335,809 12 4	- - -

Note.—Slaves emancipated in Trinidad in 1833; 22,359.

So that 5,291 men, 2,798 women, 2,249 children = 10,338, were to be found of all sorts (including the increase since 1838) located, though perhaps not working, and working, though perhaps not located, on nearly all the estates of the island on the 30th November last.

"The proportion of men, women, and children is matter for serious consideration.

"Of course this Report does not presume to state that the rest are lost utterly and entirely to the colony, but it does seem that the immigrants have not up to the present time answered the purposes for which they were imported, or at all events that a most extensive diminution takes place; for though the immigration may be said to have commenced in 1839, yet by far the larger portion has occurred within the last five years. Some doubtless located in the towns and neighbouring villages may be still available during crop time, but generally such is not the case; they live independently, and not, I fear, by honest industry. During the crop time the sugar canes from neighbouring estates furnish a large part of their food; a few plantains, sweet potatoes, tobacco, all easily procured, and salt fish, make the sum of their wants.

"It is most desirable that an attempt should be made to prevent such results for the future. The immigrant has been looked upon too much as a mere animal whose labour is valuable; whereas I would endeavour to make him eventually a useful colonist, an industrious and worthy citizen. To attain this he must be subjected to a discipline and to education. The provisions of that discipline must be directed, superintended, and enforced by the Government, in a colony like this. To leave it to the proprietor or manager to whom the immigrant may be entrusted as a labourer is probably rendering the plan nugatory; there are duties towards those under him which he is also ignorant of, and which he must be taught. Could the immigrants already imported at such heavy cost have been kept to the purposes for which they were introduced, their labour alone would amply suffice to carry on the Cane cultivation and the Sugar manufacture of the island.

"It will be conceded by all that an allowance of two persons per hogshead (including the work of men, women, and children), is amply sufficient; or, rather, that a population of 100 persons is able to produce 200 hogsheads of Sugar, and that the aged and sick may be included in that number. It might be done with less, in fact, there are those who have assured me that they can manage with the work of from 30 to 50 for 200 hogsheads. But taking the larger number, and putting the average of the crop of the island at 30,000 hogsheads, it is really less, 15,000 persons would be required. The population of the island at the last census (1845) was 59,815.

"It is questionable, under present circumstances, whether immigration can, or if so, whether it ought to be continued; and it is still more questionable, if it be true, as I am informed, *that orders have already been received from one-third of the estates in the colony to be thrown out of cultivation after the present crop.* But if it is to continue, when is it to cease? It is clear that the immigrants do not necessarily remain on estates to give the benefit of their labour; and if immigration is recommended in order to place the labour market on a par with that in slave-holding countries, if this is to be accomplished, it will be necessary to mass men together in such bodies, that the pressure of starvation shall act with equal power as the fear of the whip. To reach this point would require, and in a very short time, thousands upon thousands, in a country like this, with vast tracts of fertile lands uncultivated, unless they be restrained within bounds and kept to their appointed work.

Orders received for throwing one-third of the estates out of cultivation after the present crop.

"To compete with the slaveowner, it is not only cheap but continuous labour which the planter requires, and of which he at present cannot be certain, but which he is obliged to use all methods in endeavours to obtain. There is the great burthen and difficulty which every European has more or less, from the highest to the lowest, to contend with in these colonies; *that though he is obliged to bear with conduct which he would not tolerate in his own country; that though he is suffering continued annoyance from the carelessness, the*

European planter obliged to cringe to those whose vices he can scarcely endure.

idleness, and the waste of his property, which he sees ever going on; yet, for the sake of some little peace and quiet, *he is obliged almost to cringe to those whose vices he can scarcely endure, and to permit much, in order to save himself from greater loss and discomfort.*

"I would here call your Lordship's attention to the result of the policy which has been carried on, and how by it the finances of the colony have been reduced; how its means have been consumed in a most extravagant and but very partially successful system of immigration. To this has everything been sacrificed; and for the sake of getting an extended cane cultivation, which is now on the point of being abandoned, all improvements, even the most important, have been neglected. I have on former occasions stated to your Lordship the dearth of education, the scanty means of instruction which the colony affords; the population is annually increasing, the young are daily advancing in numbers, and simultaneously advancing in ignorance and in vice, but I am deprived of means to improve their condition.

"The gaol is so crowded that there has been and is great fear of serious disease breaking out amongst the prisoners, but the treasury has no funds to spare to increase it.

"The hospital (a hired building) is so inconvenient, so ill arranged, so badly drained, that twice during the year has hospital gangrene shown itself amongst the patients, but the plans which I have ready for a new one cannot be made use of.

Lunatics and idiots wandering about the streets to annoyance and disgust of all.

"The lunatics and the idiots wander at large about the streets, to the annoyance and disgust of all, except when at times they become violent; then, if by chance room may be found either in the gaol or the hospital, or the police station, they are confined. Daily, during the last year, have I desired to commence building only a few strong rooms, in which they might be housed, but the want of funds has stopped me.

"I think I have stated enough to satisfy your Lordship that this matter requires consideration, and that the system has been faulty, more especially when I add, that out of 990 persons convicted of crimes during the year, only 240 were natives of the island.

"I have not hesitated to state plainly to your Lordship the faults and failings of the Creole population; it is with great pleasure that I can bear witness to their good qualities, which have been particularly displayed during the present distress. The labourers on estates have worked as usual thereon, though there has been a want of money to pay them regularly; and, up to the present time, wages are due on some estates for three and four months.

"It has been also very gratifying to me to see the emulation which has been called forth amongst the young by holding examinations, and by the distribution of a few prizes; and a much greater progress has been made by some during the past year than I had expected, and I feel certain that it only requires the means to diffuse instruction more extensively to cause a rapid and general improvement in the mental, and I hope also in the moral state of the population. To what pitch of advancement they are capable of attaining remains still to be proved. They are at present subjects for great anxiety and for great interest.

Population may yet become prosperous if Great Britain will foster them.

"Under the fostering care of Great Britain, *if she will still foster them*, I believe that the population of this island may become not only prosperous, but may prove of vast importance in assisting to civilize the fine and extensive continent in its vicinity.

"I have, &c.

(signed) "Harris."

IMMIGRATION.

YOUR Committee are of opinion that everything relating to Immigration and the management of Immigrants on their arrival in the Colonies, is so vitally interesting at this time to the West Indies, whilst all that originates with Governor Lord Harris is so statesmanlike in conception and so practical in the execution, that with a few excisions of the less material parts, they present the following correspondence to The House :—

“ Extract of DESPATCH from Lord Harris to Mr. Gladstone, communicating Major Fagan’s Trinidad Coolie Regulations.

“ Sir,

Trinidad, 30 July 1846.

“ My desire has been impartially to study the interests of both parties, at the same time never to lose sight of the fact, that the Coolies are placed here under peculiar circumstances, as utter strangers in a foreign land, and therefore requiring the zealous and unceasing care of Government; *that they are also far from being the best class of the Indian labouring population, are naturally dissolute, and depraved in their habits, if left to themselves, and much inclined to fall into habits of drinking, and of wandering idle about the country, and therefore require the close supervision of Government, in order to correct, if possible, but at all events to prevent, any evident and public cases of vagabondage and licentiousness.* On this account some of the rules may appear stringent, but, as I have before stated to you, I consider this system of immigration requires the greatest care and attention to ensure its success; that it must be handled delicately and yet with great firmness, and that considerable discretionary power must be permitted to the local government, in order to give it free action on the subject.

“ I hope that these regulations will receive your approbation. I shall be prepared to modify them according to any suggestion you may throw out; but I feel that no power has been assumed which is not necessary, and which, if questioned, I shall not be prepared to require of the Legislative Council to confirm by Ordinance.

“ I have, &c.

(signed) “ Harris.”

“ EXTRACT OF TRINIDAD COOLIE REGULATIONS.

“ 2. The Coolies are to be provided, at the sole cost of the planters, with a dwelling-house of wood, strongly floored, well ventilated with doors and windows, and, in every respect, so constructed as to afford them in the worst weather a dry and comfortable shelter. Separate huts, so that every man may have a house to himself, it is recommended, should for the future be constructed for these people, instead of large open barracks as at present, to each of which should be annexed *an inclosure of land, sufficient for a garden, and the rearing of domestic animals, such as pigs, goats, and poultry, which they should be encouraged to undertake, the first supply being given them gratuitously by their employers.*

Houses or huts to be provided for Coolie immigrants, with enclosures of land attached thereto for gardens, and the rearing of domestic animals.

“ 3. In order to secure to the cocoa planters, and smaller sugar proprietors, an equal share in the general benefit to be derived from the labour of the Coolie immigrants, they (the Coolies) will be divided into gangs of 50 and 25.

Coolie immigrants, to be distributed.

Coolies not to be allowed to go about inadequately attired. Articles of clothing lost or sold to be replaced at their expense by managers of estates.

" 5. His Excellency Lord Harris, having reason to think that Coolies are frequently met on the public roads, and in the neighbourhood of estates, *in almost a state of nudity*, notwithstanding the ample covering provided for them under the foregoing rule, managers of estates, as well as all police authorities, are earnestly enjoined to exert themselves for the abatement of a practice *as offensive to decency as it is disgusting in a civilised community, and demoralising in example to the other labouring classes of the island.* Here, where the Coolie's money-savings may be said to be a clear gain to him, his food and clothing being supplied to him from the manager's stores, no excuse for such an inadequate covering of his person can be allowed; and it will accordingly be the duty of the superintending magistrate, whenever he visits estates, to inquire into the state of the Coolies' clothing, and to authorize the renewal of such articles as they may appear deficient in, from having either lost or sold them; managers repaying themselves the cost by deductions from the next subsequent pay issued to them, carefully preserving the bills as vouchers for the expenditure.

Hours of daily labour. Task-work allowable at the discretion of managers.

" 6. The hours of labour, when the Coolies are not employed at task-work, allowing one intermediate hour for breakfast, are fixed as follows: from 6 A.M. to 4 P.M., during the *entre coupe*, or out of crop season; and during the crop time, or whenever any extra labour has to be performed, the Coolies are to work as long as the other labourers on the estate; and as an essential means to ensure prompt and punctual attendance at work at the appointed hour on the part of the labourers, the absence of which must be so detrimental to the successful management of a property, it is recommended that all labourers on estates be summoned at the same time to work, and by sound of bell; and in order to secure the estate against the loss which *a wilfully lazy and drawing performance of work on the part of Coolies must occasion*, as well as to put an effectual check to what, if persevered in, must be replete with annoyance and vexation to managers, distracting their attention from their immediate duties, it is recommended that a register (to be sworn to if necessary) of all *Coolies guilty of such dereliction of engagement*, and of all particulars necessary to its clear establishment against them, be kept, so that at the expiry of their contract they may be made to *make good the days* which the register may clearly show the estate had lost by such wilful failure to fulfil the same. No one requires a stricter surveillance of conduct *while at work than the Indian labourer, whose propensity to lie down and smoke while at work, and to seize every available opening for evading it, is proverbial.*

Medical attendance to be provided for the Coolies. Hospital registers to be kept, of which copies are to be submitted quarterly to his Excellency the Governor. Suitable house as hospital to be erected on each estate.

" 7. More efficient arrangements than have at present generally obtained must be made, to ensure the regular visitation of the Coolies, at least once a week, by a qualified medical gentleman, who will be required to keep a register of the Coolies under medical treatment in the subjoined form; copy of such register to be furnished quarterly, viz., on the 1st April, 1st July, 1st October, and 1st January, through the Coolie magistrate, for the information of his Excellency the Governor; and as it must tend to the greater comfort and surer recovery of the sick that they should during illness not be disturbed by the noise and bustle of the general barrack, a house, sufficiently spacious and well ventilated by doors and windows, and having a rain-proof roof, to be provided on each estate for exclusive use as a Coolie hospital; *Coolies while on the sick list to receive no wages*, and in regard to diet and everything else to be subject to the regulating orders of the attending medical officer. Coolies falling sick are never to be permitted to remain in barrack or their huts, but are immediately to be removed to hospital; their wives and children while ill to receive every care and attention their case may demand.

Women and children to receive medical care and attention.

Objected to. No contract-expired Coolie to be employed unless he can produce regular certificate of discharge.

" 8. As the practice of engaging contract-expired Coolies, offering themselves for hire without being able to produce from their late employers certificates of regular discharge, &c., might be productive of much inconvenience and trouble, and have besides a prejudicial effect on the conduct of the Coolies, superintendents of estates are not to consider themselves at liberty to entertain any Indian immigrants presenting themselves for service under such circumstances, nor until they can produce the required documents, or the superintendents have communicated in reference to them with their late employers, by whose statements

statements they will be guided in entertaining them or otherwise; and that this regulation may come at once into operation, printed skeleton certificates in the annexed form are now in course of issue to estates, at the cost in this first instance of Government; one duly signed by the manager is to be given to each Coolie on his finally leaving the estate, being affixed by gum, or other glutinous liquid, to one of the inner sides of his pass-book.

Printed certificates in the prescribed form to be issued to estates at the cost of Government in the first instance.

“ Certified that A. B., a (a) Coolie,
(b) allotted to this estate, on the
184, for the contract term of one year, which has this day expired, declining to renew, has consequently been discharged, first receiving all his just dues, as per entry in Coolie account-book; his conduct during the term of his servitude was, &c.

(signed) B. C.
Resident Proprietor, (c).

(d)
184.

(a) *Insert the Presidency, Calcutta, or Madras, from which the Coolie may have migrated.*

(b) *If Sirdar insert it.*

(c) *Substitute manager when there is no resident proprietor.*

(d) *Name of estate and quarter.*

“ 9. It is recommended that no manager should allow Coolies to go on leave without furnishing them with a ticket signed by himself, specifying the name, period of leave, and locality to be visited; and to give more effectual operation to this rule, police constables are required to take charge of, and send back to their respective estates, any Coolies they may find wandering over the country unprovided with the above-mentioned tickets of leave, charging their respective managers with any expense the execution of these orders may occasion, the managers indemnifying themselves on the next ensuing issue of pay.

Objected to.
Coolies not to leave estates without tickets of leave, and all found wandering about the country without such passports to be secured and sent back to their respective estates by the police constables.

“ 10. Coolies to be regularly paid throughout the colony at the termination of each month, and never on any account at a later period, and by the managers themselves, and never under any circumstances through the sirdars. This rule is to be considered applicable to the issue of rations, clothing, &c.

Wages of Coolies, when and how to be paid.

“ 11. Pay-books, distinct from the accounts of all other labourers to be kept, in which must be specified opposite each man's name, his rate of pay, the allowance of food, clothing, &c., issued to him, and when pay is disbursed at the end of the month, the account must be closed and authenticated by the signature of the manager, and to be produced whenever called for by the stipendiary magistrate, or other competent authority; and in order to render the keeping of accounts between Coolies and managers more easy and satisfactory, weekly pass-books are to be supplied to each working Coolie; in this pass-book, at the close of every Saturday's work, the Coolie is to be credited with the number of days of the past week (from Monday to Saturday) for which he gave his labour; in like manner he is to be charged with whatever expenses he may have incurred from advances made to him, or on any other just account, in regard to which he must at the time be fully satisfied by clear explanation; and on his quitting the estate from refusal to renew or other allowable cause, the pass-book is to be given to him, duly filled up, and authenticated as required by rule 7.

Objected to.
Coolies account-books, plan upon which to be kept.

Weekly pass book to be supplied to Coolies, &c.

“ 13. It having been brought under the cognizance of his Excellency the Governor that the Coolies on several of the estates have begun to indulge in rum drinking, in many instances selling their clothes, and even their rations, to procure for themselves this deleterious liquid, resident proprietors, and managers are earnestly called upon to exert themselves by every means in their power to arrest the growth of what must tend to the nullification of every exertion that may be made for the religious and social improvement of these Coolie labourers, a people who have such strong claims on the philanthropy as well as on the sense of self-interest of their employers.

Objected to.
Suggestions as to the discouragement of rum drinking amongst the Coolie labourers.

Objected to.
Importance of an
uniform rate of pay
and treatment.

"14. One liberal but uniform system of pay and treatment in respect to the Coolie labourers ought to be observed throughout the colony, those of one estate never, on any account, receiving an advantage above the rest. Such an understanding amongst the resident proprietors and managers of estates is, it is obvious, indispensable as an effectual guard against the engendering of dissatisfaction on the part of the Coolies, and of those disputes which invariably result from the cessation of what men, from being long in receipt of, regard as rights, in reference to this important subject; and after it has received fuller consideration, resident proprietors and managers will be more definitely communicated with.

"By command of his Excellency the Governor.

(signed) "James Fagan, C. S. M."

"MINUTE FOR THE INSPECTOR OF POLICE.

"In reference to the ninth rule of the book of rules and regulations lately drawn up for the proper management of the Coolies in this island, the inspector of police is directed to give instructions to the sub-inspector, serjeants, and police constables, that on their meeting with Coolies apparently wandering about either in town or in the country, they will require them to show their leave tickets (mentioned in the ninth rule, or their discharge ticket mentioned in the eight rule), when they may be allowed to proceed; should they possess neither, or be supposed to be wandering about as vagrants, they should be conducted or forwarded to the nearest police station in order further to make any statements should they so wish, and then be directed to return to the estate upon which they are employed.

"The Governor particularly desires, that in the performance of this duty the police should conduct themselves quietly and civilly towards the Coolies.

"By command.

"25 July 1846.

(signed) "Arthur White, Col. Sec."

(No. 29.)

"Copy of a DESPATCH from Lord Grey to Governor Lord Harris.

"My Lord,

Downing-street, 15 September 1846.

"I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 34, of the 30th July, transmitting a printed copy of certain rules and regulations respecting Coolie immigration, drawn up by your Lordship, with the assistance of Major Fagan.

"On referring to those rules, I find that they provide, among other things, for the erection of places of abode for the Indian immigrants; for the amount of their wages, food, and clothing; for the amount of their daily labour; for their repayment to their employers of lost time; for the medical attendance on them; for their non-employment by any new master without a certificate of discharge from their last employer; for preventing their wandering abroad, and for the uniform and regular payment of their wages.

Trivial objection raised
by Lord Grey.

"Even if I were satisfied of the wisdom and justice of the whole of these regulations, I should yet be compelled to deny their validity. They constitute in effect a law of great extent and importance; and the enactment of laws is manifestly not within the province of the executive government of Trinidad. The regulations so promulgated might be disobeyed with absolute impunity, and could not be enforced by any legal process. So far as they contemplate the security and benefit of the Coolies, they are therefore ineffectual; and yet,
by

by affording a semblance of efficiency, may prevent the enactment by the proper authority of such laws as are really required for the purpose.

“ But, independently of their want of legal authority, there is much in the regulations themselves of which I cannot approve. To some of them I perceive grave objections, and more especially those numbered 8, 9, 11, 13, and 14. It is, however, sufficient for my immediate purpose to observe, that the regulations must be withdrawn as resting on no adequate authority. As I shall take an early opportunity of transmitting to your Lordship a full explanation of the views of Her Majesty’s Government as to the general principles by which laws ought to be made for regulating the relations between the Coolies and their employers, I abstain at present from entering into a more particular examination of the printed rules transmitted in your despatch of the 30th July.

“ I have, &c.
(signed) “ Grey.”

(No. 84.)

“ Extract of DESPATCH from Lord Harris to Earl Grey.

“ My Lord, Trinidad, 21 October 1846.

“ I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 29, dated 15th September, in which your Lordship requires that the Coolie regulations should be withdrawn, on the ground of their not possessing sufficient legal authority.

“ In pursuance of your Lordship’s directions that has been done.

“ In not bringing the regulations before the Council previously to transmitting them to England, I followed the only precedent I possessed, *that of my predecessor, whose regulations respecting the Coolies never received the public sanction of the Council.*

Trivial objection
by Lord Grey.

“ I expected that serious objections would be raised in England to many of those added by me; but as they were intended for a very different state of society in Trinidad, and as immediate interference was required, I did not hesitate to adopt such measures as I conceived would be beneficial to the parties interested.

“ I have, &c.
(signed) “ Harris.”

“ Extract of MESSAGE.

“ Government House, 17 October 1846.

“ The Governor has summoned a special meeting of the Council, for the purpose of acquainting the Board that he has received instructions from the Secretary of State on no account to sanction for the future the payment of any bounties from the local treasury for intercolonial immigration.

“ It would appear that there is some misconception at the Colonial Office as to the authority on which these bounties have hitherto been paid.

Misconception of the
Colonial Office.

“ They are authorized, as the Board is aware, by the 3d section of the Immigration Ordinance, and by the 5th section of that Act the public faith is pledged that, ‘ no order altering or disallowing the amount of any sum or sums which may have been fixed for the passages of immigrants coming into the colony, shall come into operation until six months after such order shall have been published in the Royal Gazette.’

“ The Governor has also directed to be laid on the table of the Board a copy of the rules and regulations which he had issued in regard to the Coolies.

“ The Governor’s reasons for not bringing these rules before the Council and
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proposing to legalize them at once in the form of an ordinance were, that he looked upon the whole question of Indian immigration as one of experiment; that he was desirous of gaining some sort of knowledge from actual data before coming to any decided conclusion; *that he felt it necessary to see what the working of the system really would be; and as he thinks nothing is more to be reprobated than a constant meddling with legislation*, he preferred leaving the rules to rest at first upon their own merits with those who were called on to adopt them, and his gratification has been great to find that they have received at all events an unopposed, and, in very many cases, a fair and diligent trial by those engaged in carrying them out practically on estates.

“The objects he was desirous of carrying out practically were two-fold; *first, that the planter should have a fair return of work for the food, clothing, medical advice, and money, &c. which he undertook to provide to the Coolie; secondly, that ample justice should be done to, and proper care taken of, the immigrant, and also that there should be such supervision over him as would prevent him acting in a manner prejudicial to himself.*

“The Governor has used his best endeavours to accomplish these objects; the utmost vigilance that the means at his command would allow of has been employed in rendering strict and impartial justice to both parties, *and he can say with satisfaction that where the rules have been most closely followed, there they answered best, and both planter and Coolie have been satisfied.*

“The Governor has moreover the gratification of stating that, in adopting that rule which has been most questioned, viz. the 9th, *he firmly believes that by placing a moderate check on his prevalent propensity to wandering about, many a poor Indian has been spared during this very sickly and protracted wet season from severe illness, from probable starvation, and ultimately from death.*”

“EXTRACT from Lord Grey's Despatch to Lord Harris;
dated 1 March 1847.

“With respect to the disallowance of the Coolie regulations, which Major Fagan appears to view with so much regret and disappointment, I have found nothing in his paper to alter in any degree the opinion which I had already expressed to you upon that subject; and it will not be in my power, therefore, to advise Her Majesty to sanction any ordinance establishing regulations which shall be liable to the same objections. I am, however, fully sensible of the necessity of a law for checking abuses, which may arise in the employment of the Coolies. I am happy to learn that the subject is about to engage your attention and that of your Council; and I shall receive with every disposition to judge favourably of it any law which you and they may think fit to enact; nor have I any wish to require the adoption of the regulations sketched out in the ‘heads of an ordinance’ to which you allude, or to debar you from adopting any legislation which, in concurrence with your Council, you may consider more suited to the peculiar circumstances of Trinidad, *provided certain fundamental principles are not violated.*”

On the 28th of December, Lord Harris writes a Despatch, of which this is an extract, to Lord Grey:—

“At a meeting of the Board, held on the 22d instant, I appointed a Committee to take into consideration *the whole subject of Indian Immigration, which will in a short time be brought before the whole Council*; and it is right that I should apprise your Lordship, that it is probable the result will be, that at all events a temporary discontinuance of Coolie immigration will be decided on.

“I have no hesitation in saying, that such a course will receive my approval, for various reasons which I will not state at present, as I purpose going fully into the subject in a Despatch which I shall forward by the next mail. I will only state
this

this one startling fact, which I have ascertained from returns, that after deducting the value of their labour at the average rate, there is a dead loss on every Coolie—man, woman, and child—for this year, of 10 l., which must be borne either by the proprietor or by the mortgagee, or by the island generally.

A dead loss of 10 l. for each Coolie imported has been incurred this year.

"I will not answer unreservedly for the accuracy of the calculation, for I have found some difficulty in procuring correct information, some degree of which may be conceived, when I state that from 90 estates, to which blank returns, printed according to my own plan, were forwarded nearly four months ago, and which only required filling up, I have now only received 60, and where such negligence and inattention is shown, it is probable there may be great inaccuracy, but on the whole, *I am inclined to think that the loss is not overstated.* Moreover, this calculation might deceive as to the actual loss, because the rate of wages does not show the real value of labour. There can be no doubt that the general price here is too high to permit of remuneration to the planter under the circumstances in which he is generally placed, and this accounts at once for the fact, that for the last 10 years the greater number of estates in the island have been kept in cultivation at a great loss, only one year out of the ten having given a profitable return.

"*The Coolie immigration has undoubtedly had a most valuable moral effect on the Creole labourer, and has shown him that he cannot do quite as he likes. This effect will, of course, be increased by the addition of 4,000 during the next year.* It then becomes the question whether a sufficient augmentation to the supply of labour will not have been made; if not, it may further be asked, whether many of the estates now in cultivation could ever recover from such an enormous charge on them as this system of immigration must entail. I must say, when I consider the competition they are now exposed to, the encumbrances with which they are already burdened, and the expenses of cultivation,—and these are such, that I possess a detailed account of the produce and expenses of the same estate before and since emancipation; previously, sugar was made for 55 cents. (2s. 3½d.) the 100 pounds, (it now costs \$5, or 1 l. 0s. 10d.),—that I think it is time to pause, to look matters thoroughly in the face, and to have the affair rigorously investigated before larger debt is incurred. In the meantime it is to be hoped that the coast of Africa will be opened so as to supply the gap which the return of the Coolies to their own country will make in the numbers of the labouring population."

Coolie immigration has had an excellent moral effect on the Creole labourer.

Sugar which formerly cost 2s. 3½d. to make, now costs 1 l. 0s. 10d.

On the 12th of May 1847, these Resolutions were come to at a meeting of the Planters of Trinidad:—

Resolutions at a meeting of Planters.

"*Resolved, 2d, That although the average price of labour has not hitherto been reduced, yet the inhabitants of the district of Naparima have already derived advantage from the increased facilities of obtaining more careful and more continuous performance of agricultural work, consequent on the introduction of the Coolies; and a marked improvement in the condition of the plantations is consequently visible throughout the district.*

"*Resolved, 3d, That this meeting has learned with great satisfaction that it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to give additional facilities for immigration from Africa, and especially that a steam-vessel is to be employed; and this meeting is convinced, that in proportion as the communication shall become more constant and more complete, so it will be more evident that the interest, as well of the African labourer as of the employer, will be promoted by entire freedom of intercourse to all parts of the coast.*

"*Resolved, 4th, That this meeting, whilst sensible of the absolute necessity of procuring labour, even at the sacrifice of raising a fund by public loan, yet, fully recognizes the sounder policy of providing, so far as may be practicable, for the annual charge of immigration out of the annual revenue of the island. They, therefore, earnestly hope that Government will adopt such measures of economy, of judicious taxation, and for the disposal of the Crown lands at suitable periods, and at a sufficient price as will attain this object; and also that some of the restrictions of the Passenger Act, which though unnecessary to the comfort and well-being of passengers, yet greatly increase the charges of conveying them, may be modified so as to enable this island to derive advantages more commensurate with its outlay, for the purpose of procuring such labour*

Proposal to raise funds for immigration by sale of Crown lands. Proposal to amend the Passenger Act.

as will ensure the staple products being raised in successful competition with the slave labour of foreign countries."

On the 4th of September Lord Harris writes to Lord Grey, as follows :—

One thousand immigrants not sufficient to make the necessary reduction in wages.

"The introduction of from 500 to 1,000 immigrants in each year can have no perceptible effect upon the price of labour, and unless that is reduced, and quickly, I do not see how the cultivation of the cane can be carried on with any prospect of success.

"I can assure your Lordship that I have it from the best authority, that, even under the most favourable circumstances the price of Sugar will not repay the cost of production, and that the distress which in consequence at present exists in this colony has never been equalled."

On the 14th of June, touching the Portuguese Immigrants, Lord Harris writes as follows :—

Protestant immigrants from Madeira have been useful.

"Your Lordship will perceive that the account which I can give is much more satisfactory than the last. Although on their first arrival a good deal of sickness prevailed amongst these people, all of whom are Protestants, *they are now acclimatised, and have become useful members of the community; they are nearly all domiciled in Port of Spain or its immediate vicinity.*

"From what I have seen of these immigrants, and I have watched them carefully, I do not think it necessary to recommend your Lordship to prohibit entirely their coming to this island, as I think the partial prohibition which you were pleased to approve of at my suggestion, will be a sufficient bar to any occurrence similar to the distressing case of last year.

The Portuguese are not adapted for agricultural labourers in Trinidad.

"There is, moreover, another safeguard in the fact that the Planters will not now employ the Portuguese, *having experienced or witnessed their inefficiency; and as it was on estates that the great loss took place, they are now employed as domestic servants or gardeners.*

"I believe, also, that there is little probability of any fresh arrivals in this colony from Madeira, as I hear from the Consul at Funchal there is no inclination manifested by the people to come here."

Lord Harris considers sailing vessels preferable to steamers for immigration from Africa.

In answer to the Resolutions of the 12th of May, recommending steamers, Your Committee now present to you an extract from a Despatch of a later date, viz. the 8th of December, from Lord Harris, in which he shows that experience has taught him that sailing vessels are far preferable to steamers; and Your House will find this statement confirmed by Commander Hall, as well as by the evidence of Mr. Shand and Mr. Loxdale, who show how much cheaper immigrants may be brought in the light West India ships going out for Sugar freights.

"I beg to call your Lordship's attention to the length of time occupied by this vessel in performing her first trip, being no less than 93 days, 58 of which were passed in her return voyage from Trinidad to Sierra Leone; and it appears to me quite possible that this may take place on each successive voyage, if her route is to continue on the same plan. *I would therefore suggest, for your Lordship's consideration, whether your desire to furnish these colonies with a supply of labour would not be carried out more rapidly, more efficiently, and at the same time introduce a larger number of people in shorter time, by the employment of sailing vessels.* It is not likely that they would occupy more time than the steamer does at present; whereas they possess the advantage of being able to carry many more passengers in proportion to their tonnage.

"I have not forwarded any delegates by the 'Growler,' as I consider that there is no use in doing so." They evidently take advantage of the opportunity for the purpose of making a trip, partly for pleasure, partly for trading; and I believe that those already dispatched have not influenced a single inhabitant of Sierra Leone to come here. Moreover, I have little hesitation in stating generally, that *under present circumstances I have no wish to see any but Africans lately liberated* (and if they have never been on shore since their capture, so much the better), introduced into this colony."

Mr. Loxdale's returns of the cost of introducing Madeiranese into British Guiana.

Mr. Loxdale states that he imported from Madeira 400 people altogether, of whom 233 were adults. He stated that he had to pay 780 £. to the agent at Madeira, who brought them out, which included the permit tax, charged by the Portuguese

Portuguese Government, and that, including that 780 *l.*, and the cost of provisions, the expense of the venture was 1,000 *l.*, on which he received between 480 *l.* and 500 *l.* profit. On that occasion his ship was employed merely as a passenger ship; he did not import those immigrants on his own account. This shows that the expense, by a private merchant ship, is considerably under 3 *l.* a head, whilst the charge by the "Growler" was 10 *l.* a head. Mr. Loxdale says, that upon another occasion, one of his partners sent a ship round to Sierra Leone, but they did not succeed in getting any people; there were no Africans to be had.

Upon a question on the subject of the cost of Portuguese immigration from Madeira, Mr. Shand, who is the consignee of nearly one-third of the estates in the island of Antigua, states, that one of his ships going out, called at Madeira, and carried them at a very low price; it did not cost him more than 3 *l.* or 4 *l.* a head all round. He says that he had to pay an export duty of some two or three dollars a head. They put their provisions on board at Liverpool, so that the expense was not great; it did not put the vessel much out of her voyage. He says that it cost, to land them altogether, about 5 *l.* They were obliged to have a doctor, and so on.

Mr. Shand's returns of the cost of introducing Madeiranese into Antigua.

Commander Hall stated, that a 46-gun frigate, with the main deck cleared, would carry double the number of Africans the "Growler" could carry, and at, as he thought, the same or a little more expense, and that they would be much more healthy than on board a steamer; he added, that of course he concluded, that a merchant ship would bring them cheaper still.

Commander Hall's comparison of cost of carrying immigrants per "Growler" and per frigate.

Dr. McCrae confirmed Commander Hall, by saying, he thought a 46-gun frigate would be more commodious than the "Growler;" that the "Growler" was lumbered up with bunks, which very much impeded the circulation of air. That the hammocks, beds, and bunks were unnecessary. That the Africans were not accustomed to it; that they lie down on a mat in their own houses, and that, in fact, those bunks and beds were only a means of accumulating dirt, and impeding the circulation of air.

Dr. McCrae's confirmation of the above comparison.

On the 16th of January 1847, Lord Harris again writes, showing that it is not only immigration but a cheap as well as a steady supply of labour, on which the prosperity and very existence of the Colonies depends.

Lord Harris's opinion that immigration, to be effective, should be cheap and steady.

"Undoubtedly, it is most necessary to secure continuous labour, the production of the staple products of the country depends on it, and on that rests its future progress in civilization and prosperity; and the problem to be solved is how shall that be done? How shall the vast capital already expended on the estates in the first place be saved? and then, how shall it be rendered profitable to the possessors? For there is the difficulty—Great Britain encouraged the outlay of this capital; she even enforced certain terms upon the capitalists, and then was the first to fly from them. Her doing so was caused, I believe, by the force of circumstances, and if blame can be attached to any, it must fall on those who impeded the adoption of philanthropic measures till they could only be carried out in haste; and we have now two parties, the one crying for support, or ruin inevitably awaits them, the other incapable of appreciating the crisis, and disinclined to great exertion—a disinclination very much increased from the migratory habits which they have adopted, very much from the want of opportunity being afforded to them of settling upon lands, and the hostility which has been manifested to allowing it."

Lord Harris is of opinion that Great Britain encouraged the outlay of capital on West India properties, enforced terms on the capitalists, and has been the first to fly from those terms.

"There can be no doubt that the prosperity, nay, the existence of these colonies, depends on a cheap and steady supply of labour; the favourable solution of the still more important question of free against slave labour must depend on it; every means ought to be tried, more especially on the part of the mother country, to obtain it on as cheap terms as possible;—but the last means I would recommend a resort to, would be to pen in, as it were, the inhabitants of this island, so little fitted, as I have before shown, for any trial of the kind."

Prosperity of these colonies depends on a steady and cheap supply of labour.

With reference to the expediency, the justice, and the practicability of forcing the present race of Emancipated Negroes to labour beyond their inclinations, Governor Lord Harris, in the same Despatch to Lord Grey, makes these statesmanlike observations:—

Squatting.

"The appointment of an officer for the purpose of ejecting the unauthorised holders of Crown land will be unnecessary as soon as the contemplated divisions of the island takes place, as the warden of each district will be required to exercise a rigid surveillance over them; and for the present I propose to act on the powers given by the Order in Council of the 6th October 1838, and to eject all squatters within a year, through the instrumentality of an officer directed by the Surveyor-general, by the summary jurisdiction of the stipendiary magistrate.

"On this authority I am prepared to act speedily and rigorously; but should it be determined to extend the ejectment to others who have held Crown lands for a longer period, I think that it would be a just and sound policy, and only fair towards the local Government, that it should be able at the same time to offer a scheme for the sale of Crown lands; *for, inasmuch as to prevent men from doing evil, they must be shown how to do good,—to discourage idleness, it is necessary to give opportunities for industry;—so to drive men from their settlements without affording the means of buying or hiring others, will only render them dissatisfied, and compel them to seek refuge in wilder and more secluded districts. Moreover, to force all the men of the lower classes not otherwise employed to become agricultural labourers, is, I conceive, hardly desirable, and not very possible.*

"It requires no very great experience amongst the lower orders of society to discover, that many will become useful members of society if allowed to cultivate their own lands, who, if forced to labour for wages, only turn to the idle and dissolute life of smugglers or poachers in England, *and to that of squatters in Trinidad.* Moreover, to prevent this in this island is more difficult than may at first appear, from the vast tracts of forest land through which they can wander, and the inaccessible nature of the country through *which those in search of them must pass.*

Sale of Crown Lands.

"By offering Crown lands for sale, at the same time that a more energetic prevention to squatting is established, the Government would escape the odium which would otherwise fall on it, and which would now be the more virulent from the fact, that up to the present time, though proclamations have at various periods been issued, and proceedings threatened, yet any really active measures appear to have been avoided, chiefly, I believe, on account of the unpopularity which would follow."

"I have already adverted to the fact, that during the Spanish dominion it was the custom to give free grants of the Crown lands, and such was also the case during the British rule until a late period, or rather, it was latterly more the practice for governors to allow the occupancy, rather than to make a free grant; and not only did they distribute them themselves, but they permitted the Commandants of Quarters, as also their adjoints, to locate those whom they might deem meritorious persons on the Crown lands, one principal recommendation being service in the militia.

"*Thus a notion became very prevalent that Crown lands were to be obtained for the asking, which, combined with the great desire manifested by the black population, since emancipation, to possess lands of their own, will render it difficult for some time to eradicate the habit of squatting.*"

"At present the Governor has permission to sell no smaller quantity than 640 acres. I have already acquainted your Lordship with my opinion that harm instead of good has resulted from this principle of restriction; and though I fully and cordially agree with you in opinion, *'that the highest interest of the Negroes requires that the cultivation of sugar should not be abandoned, and that the proprietors of European race should be enabled to maintain their present place in the society of the colony, which can only be done by giving them a greater command of labour,'* yet I am hardly prepared to go so far as to say that *'we ought to place the labouring population in circumstances in which a greater amount of labour than at present shall be required to supply their wants;'* to do so is effectually to diminish their comfort and happiness, for I do not think it necessarily follows, that the continued daily drudgery of labour improves the lower orders either morally or physically, more especially in a climate in which the human frame is easily fatigued and frequently prostrated.

Comfort and happiness
of the labourer should
not be sacrificed.

"We must ever remember that the *Negro* differs from the lower classes of most nations in this, that without achieving it by any display either of moral power or of intellectual capacity, or of physical force, uneducated, undisciplined, and moreover demoralized by the general example of his superiors, he *has been placed in a state of freedom with no knowledge of its obligation, and with but little appreciation of its value beyond the idea of being able to follow the bent of his inclinations and passions; and consequently, to endeavour to reduce him to a state of almost forcible labour, would be to arouse his naturally suspicious mind, and render him unmanageable and difficult to govern; whereas, by giving scope to what industrial notions he may possess, and encouraging them so that they may become habits not only in himself, but in his children, his energies would be more rapidly developed, his general tone would be improved, and a thriving, and I believe, a numerous population, would be more readily produced.*"

The negro has no knowledge of the obligation, and little appreciation of the value of freedom.

On the subject of wages, and the cost of labour, and the late reductions of wages, and the probability of those reductions being continued, and of the annoyances to which, from time to time, the Planters had been put in the Island of Antigua, as well as of the advantage of the immigration from Madeira in 1846, Mr. Shand was asked, and answered the following questions:—

Mr. Shand.

"What information can you give the Committee upon the subject of the reduction in the cost of labour, and the reduction in the cost of cultivation; do you know that the price of labour is generally reduced to 6*d.*?—It is reduced to 6*d.* for the performance of a certain task; there is a specified quantity of work which is expected to be done for 6*d.*—Was it 10*d.* before?—I think it is difficult to say what it was, the work was performed so irregularly, but I should say 10*d.* was the very lowest.—When did this reduction take place?—Only two packets ago we had the information.—Do you expect that reduction will last?—It is a very difficult thing to say; the negro labourers have already acquired a full knowledge of their power, and they are not so eager for labour as to work for less money than they can acquire from us.—Have you any apprehension that it will not be maintained?—Having seen that formerly we began well, and that for two years our operations were carried on at a rate something less than this, and yet that there was a gradual increase of expense, I am fearful as to the result. The negro, as he became more accustomed to his freedom, was less willing to devote himself to work, he became less patient of a servile state, and was more desirous of independence, and there was an apparent anxiety on the part of the official authorities to get the negroes from what they said was too much observation and control. In fact, it was said by a Governor that we had, that they never would be free till they were off the estates.—What Governor was that?—Sir William Colebrooke; he was of opinion that they would never be free and independent to make bargains as free labourers till they were off the estates?—Did he make a public declaration of that?—He advocated the establishment of those negro villages which have been mentioned. I cannot agree with Mr. Tollemache, that they have been at all productive of benefit to the country. I think that they have removed the people much further from their work; and instead of being under contract, which I think is absolutely necessary,—for I think it is absolutely necessary that we should have a contract law, which should be observed,—at present they rove about; you have this set of men this week, and another set of men another week; there are what are called "task gangs" going about to see where they can get most money; they support one another: of course their going would leave an estate in difficulties, and then when they get it into difficulties they make their own price. Our contract law which we first had bound them for a year. The *prima facie* evidence of a contract was that they received a week's wages, or that they occupied a house for a week; but now by living in those independent villages, they do not occupy a house upon your estate, and they take care not to work for a week, consequently they only receive a day's pay on contract work which does not extend to a week.—Was your contract only from week to week?—It was yearly, subject to a month's notice; but to establish that contract, they must receive a week's wages or occupy a house upon the estate. For the last four years of slavery we had laid out considerable sums of money, which added to the costs upon the estate, in order to improve the residences of the negroes, and to make them as comfortable as possible, and that they should find themselves at home when they became

Reduction of wages in Antigua.

Injurious conduct of Sir Wm. Colebrooke, while Governor of Antigua.

Mr. Sland suggests a contract law.

free.—Can you suggest any improvement as regards the hiring of labourers?—I think we ought to have a law which would assure us of the work of the labourers; that we should hire labourers for a year; that there should be a hiring time (say, for instance, the 1st of January), and that the mode of hiring them, should be simple, not clogged with many conditions, which require us to go before a magistrate and observe a great many formalities. I think the contract law should be simplified as much as possible; that there should be a certain time of the year when they should be hired, and that they should be your labourers for a year.—Have you any complaints to make of the conduct of the stipendiary magistrates?—We had no stipendiary magistracy in the first instance; and though I can say nothing against the gentlemen we have there now, who are natives of the island, there was always, perhaps, a natural leaning on the part of the authorities to the negroes, from an apprehension that they were the parties who were likely to be oppressed.—But, practically, the planter has been oppressed by the negro?—Quite so; he has quite changed places with the negro the last few years.—The negro is the master of the planter?—Quite so.—Have you any idea that by an immigration of labourers you would be benefited?—I believe the feeling of the negroes was so excited last year, that if there had not been imported nearly 1,000 people from Madeira, we should not have got the crop off at all. They just came at a time when the gentlemen on the estate said the negroes were jeering them, and looking at the crop and saying, in effect, that the planters could only have it off at their (the labourers') own price. I do not think, however, that those people who have been brought in were calculated immediately to reduce the wages, because their own wages are high. You could not get Madeira people to go for less than 1 s. a day.—How did that answer, as the negroes were working at 10 d. a day before?—They got 1 s. a day, I should say.—The importation of those 1,000 people from Madeira secured the crop last year?

Important results from introducing 1,000 Madeiranese into Antigua.

—Yes; it was, with some exceptions a very large crop. It was got in in very good time, and it gave us an opportunity of preparing our crop for the succeeding year. There is nothing more requisite than that you should have all your land prepared in time for the succeeding season.—When you say you imported 1,000 labourers, do you mean for your own use?—Yes; but I should observe, the people were in families, men women, and children, and therefore not all workers.—You are only speaking of your own estate?—We took them for our connexions. I am the consignee of 32 other estates in the island.—How many estates are there in the island?—One hundred and fifty-three, I think, but not more than 145 are now in cultivation.—Then you are the consignee of nearly one-third of the island?—I think I am. At present we have 14 estates under lease to us, or our own property.—You found that the immigration of Madeira people answered perfectly?—Yes. I was in Antigua in 1846; I found the people perfectly good tempered; they used to laugh, and when you said you would not give them the price they named for weeding the canes, they would say, 'The weeds grow, Massa,' and I was obliged to say to them, 'If you put me in such a condition as to oblige me to give such a rate of wages, I shall abandon the cultivation.' The effect upon the crop of 1846 was considerable, in consequence of my having had to carry on the cultivation of particular estates to a certain point, and then being obliged to abandon it, because I could not get people to carry it on at anything like a reasonable price.—Do you feel yourselves under any obnoxious restrictions against the immigration of labourers?—The terms on which you might introduce labourers hitherto, except from Madeira, have been very severe, and very expensive; the distance from which you have to bring them, the state in which you find them, and the short time for which you could retain them, laid us under expenses which I do not think we could bear; at least I do not think the want of labourers in Antigua was sufficiently urgent as to make us go to that great distance for them, and to encounter so large an expense.—You are under no such obligations with respect to the Madeira people?—We contracted with them for two years.—Have they done very well?—Yes; they have been a little impatient once or twice. There was one little difficulty which will always attend the introduction of strangers, the language was not understood, and we were obliged to have interpreters, which added to the cost."

IMMIGRANTS INTO ANTIGUA.

Upon the same subject, Sir William Codrington gave the following evidence:—

“You heard Mr. Tollemache's evidence respecting the nature of the labour of Antigua?—Yes.—You heard him say that the wages were reduced to 6 *d.* a day?—They are at present, but I doubt very much whether it will last. We took the opportunity of a very bad season to reduce them; we had had a long drought, and there was scarcely any work to be done; no weeds growing, or anything of that kind, and we took that opportunity of reducing the wages; and I doubt very much when crop-time arrives whether they will not be raised again.—Can you state to the Committee how it is that the labourers on Sugar Plantations in the West Indies are, practically, completely the masters of the Planters?—The last time I went out, which was in December 1846, I was anxious to begin the crop, and arranged to begin it the first week in January while I was there; but to my great disappointment we could get no labourers to do anything for several days. Instead of going to work, they came to me in groups and complained that they could not cut the canes at the price we were giving. I told them it would be impossible for me to give more, and if the crop was not taken off at that price I should let it stay and rot. They laughed at me and said, ‘Massa, there is fine crop, but who take him off?’ and that sort of language. I said, ‘I expect very soon some Portuguese who will take it off.’ In a short time the Portuguese arrived, but in the meantime, after a few days, the negroes went to work; but it was several days before they would do so.—Do you suppose it was the fear of the Portuguese that induced them?—Yes; I think it had a very good effect.—In point of fact the immigration of a few labourers had a much greater moral effect than could fairly have been expected from the numbers actually arriving?—Yes; I only imported myself 63.”

Sir W. Codrington.
The reduction of wages in Antigua is probably only temporary.

Advantage from introducing Portuguese.

“You heard Mr. Tollemache say, that he had succeeded in reducing his expenditure by cutting down the salaries of the superior people and their perquisites to the extent of from 900 *l.* to 1,000 *l.* a year upon an outlay of 10,000 *l.* a year; do you conceive it would be possible upon your estate to cut down the salaries of the people, or their perquisites, in the same proportion?—I cut them down in a great measure in 1843; but I do not consider that I can cut them down any more.—You did that five years ago?—Yes.—Therefore no such further economy can be carried out on your estate?—No, I do not think any more economy can.—You heard Mr. Tollemache say that he thought it would be possible, by economy of labour, to reduce the cost of cultivation to the extent of 2 *s.* a cwt.; so that, even supposing it were not possible to keep down the wages of labour to 6 *d.*, to which they have been reduced, he might by an economy of labour save a sum per annum equal to that reduction of the wages of the individual labourers; in your opinion, is that to be done on your estate?—No; I do not think it is upon his either.—Will you give your reasons to the Committee why you think it is not to be done upon either your estate or his?—I think he will find that he will require more labour than he has laid down he will allow his attorney.—He laid down a fixed rule, that only a certain number of labourers are to be employed upon a certain extent of ground?—Yes. I think that is imprudent, because one week they may require very few; then if there come suddenly a good deal of rain, before the attorney can correspond with Mr. Tollemache, he will want double the number of labourers perhaps.—In the meantime, his crop will be smothered by weeds?—It must be, if he cannot get the labour he requires.—And while he is saving shillings he will be losing pounds in the value of his crops?—I am afraid he may. He may reduce it to a great degree by improvements in agricultural implements; and I am now introducing weeding machines, which we hope will enable us to keep down, in a great measure, some of that labour.”

Sir Wm. Codrington's opinions on the reductions by Mr. Tollemache.

J A M A I C A.

Mr. Geddes.

10 s. per cwt. a fair average cost of producing during Slavery in Jamaica.

Wages and amount of labour since Freedom.

Advantage of introducing African immigrants into Jamaica.

Sir Charles Grey's address to the planters in St. Thomas-in-the-East, Jamaica.

Good conduct of the African immigrants.

Mr. Geddes, who has been connected with the Island of Jamaica ever since the year 1819, gave some very valuable evidence to the Committee; he stated that though Jamaica was but comparatively a small country, there was no country in the world of the same extent which varied so much in its capabilities or the qualities of its soil. "The cost of production, in slavery as well as at present, would therefore vary considerably; but it was not under 4 s. a cwt., nor did it exceed from 12 s. to 14 s., deducting the rum and making no allowance for interest upon capital." He reckoned that 10 s. would be a very fair average of the cost per cwt. of producing Sugar in Jamaica under slavery. He stated to the Committee, that out of 653 Sugar Estates in cultivation in 1834, 140 had been abandoned previous to the year 1847. In the same period 465 Coffee Estates had been abandoned. He reckoned the average cost of a negro during slavery 3 l. a year; he stated that during slavery the labour of a slave was 9½ hours a day, and so it continued during the apprenticeship. Since the apprenticeship ceased the cost for six hours labour became almost universally 1 s. 6 d. a day; and he said that on an average, and he could speak very precisely to that point, since the emancipation of the labourers of Jamaica, no one, man or woman, has exceeded on the average three days a week throughout the year in their application to labour. Being asked if he has not more wages to pay in the season of crop time, he answers:

"Yes; the wages came to 2 s. and 2 s. 6 d., unless in the great sugar district of St. Thomas-in-the-East, where there are located about 2,000 liberated Africans. There comparatively large crops have been realized; and I have seen, for I went there on purpose, the people working six days per week during the season of crop, which is a matter of the very highest importance, inasmuch as the crops are taken off in due season, and the cultivation kept in its natural state. If the Committee will permit me, I should wish to read an address of Sir Charles Grey to the planters in that part of the country, stating from personal observation the benefit which those very immigrants had derived from being removed to Jamaica. It was an address in May, 1847: 'It adds greatly to the pleasure with which, under any circumstances, I must have received your kind congratulations, that I receive them in the midst of your residences, and of the plenty and prosperity of this smiling land. That which I have seen within the last few days in St. Thomas-in-the-East, has removed from my mind all apprehensions for the future fortunes of the colony. It may be perhaps of more importance that it has also removed all doubt as to its being my duty to recommend to Her Majesty's Government at home, that by all the means at their command they should prosecute the free immigration of labourers from the coast of Africa. The efficiency, Mr. Custos, of the African labourers employed by your honour, their unmistakeable air of contentment and cheerfulness, their orderly demeanour and intelligence, their willing observance of religious rites and attendance at church worship, and the quickness with which their children attain education in the schools provided for them, have fully satisfied me, not only that by the influx of immigrants from Africa all that is wanted here in the way of labour may be supplied, but that it may be supplied without the slightest disturbance of social relations or order, and with so vast an improvement, physical, moral, intellectual, and religious, of the condition of the immigrants themselves, that it may be regarded almost as a transition to another life and another world. Of these facts I am confident nothing can be required but personal examination and inspection to convince the most decided and most ardent adversary of slavery. It is the opportunity I have myself had of observing these facts; it is the knowledge I possess of its being the desire and intention of Her Majesty's Ministers to do everything for the benefit of these colonies which is consistent with the general welfare of the empire; it is, above all, my perception and conviction of the resident proprietors and planters having acquired a full sense of their obligation and duties toward the people, and of their having come to the conclusion that strict justice is due to the labourer as well as to the employed, and that their interests are mutual and dependent on each other, that make me confident of the rapid growth of your prosperity.'

"8945. To revert to the cost of labour during slavery and under freedom, I understand from your statement that for 3 l. during slavery you obtained 2,653 hours

2,653 hours of labour, of five and a half days in each week, of nine hours and a half each, less two days at Christmas and two at Easter. While now for 19 l. 10 s. you only get 1,560 hours of labour by change of negroes, of five days a week, at an average of six hours each day, and that the average labour of each negro is only 18 hours a week out of season of crop?—This appears to me correct.

“8946. Supposing your statement to be correct, that during slavery you got $9\frac{1}{2}$ hours of labour $5\frac{1}{2}$ days in the week, it would give $51\frac{1}{2}$ hours a week and 2,653 hours in the year; and in the other case, assuming your statement to be correct, that you only now get six hours a day for five days in the week, that would be 30 hours a week instead of $51\frac{1}{2}$, which multiplied by 52 weeks would give 1,560 hours?—That approaches as closely as need be to the state of the case.

“8947. Sir E. Buxton.] At how much a day?—In most districts 1 s. 6 d. per day; in some, from drought and other causes, it has been reduced to 1 s.; but the above calculations are certainly made at 1 s. 6 d.

“8948. Chairman.] The result is, that for 19 l. 10 s., which ought to give you 17,244 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours of labour, according to the rate of payment during slavery, only gives you 1,560 hours?—About that.”

Upon this point, however, Your Committee think it necessary to call the attention of The House to the fact that this calculation assumes that every negro subsisted by the planter, under slavery, was an efficient Slave. This, however, would be very far from the truth. In Cuba it may happen, on some estates, that every Slave is an efficient labourer; and even in Louisiana the efficient labour is estimated at one for two Slaves of every age and sex; but in the British West Indies, under the mitigated form of Slavery existing there in latter years, it was reckoned that, deducting women and children, aged and decrepit, the effective gang was not estimated at more than one effective labourer to two non-effective. Thus, practically, the matter would stand thus: “19 l. 10 s., which ought to give 5,748 hours of labour, according to the rate of payment during Slavery, only gives you 1,560 hours?” being little more than one-fourth of the labour from freemen, which for the same money was obtained under Slavery.

He is asked the following questions, and answers them in respect to the comparative advantages of Slave and Free Labour:—

Comparison of Free and Slave Labour.

“8949. Is this free labour more efficacious than slave labour was?—Most certainly not.

“8950. That is because it is not so continuous, nor so much to be relied on:—Let me state to the Committee that a labourer at the present day does not perform so much as the slave was made to do under a strict system of discipline, and there is another misfortune which is even as great as that, that when his labour is most required you cannot have it; so that the outlay of one part of the season is in many instances rendered futile by the want of labour to bring his cultivation to maturity at another.

“8951. Will you explain to the Committee how absolutely necessary it is that labour should be applied immediately when it is wanted, as regards weeding, cutting the canes, planting the canes, and the manufacture of sugar?—The first operation in the preparation of the land for the cane cultivation is to hoe the surface weeds completely off; the next is ploughing and carrying out of the manure. If labour cannot be had, and it is frequently not to be had when the land is opened, in six weeks it has to be re-cleared painfully by the hoe. The manure being all this time exposed to the ardent influence of the sun, loses its entire strength; the season has passed away, and the plants which were provided by the planter for planting have also been lost.

“8952. Does not it happen that the exact moment when you most wish for an access of labour to plant your canes, that is to say, when the rain comes, is just the moment when the free labourer is tempted to abandon his work by the desire to plant his own provision grounds?—As in the period of slavery the labourer was compelled to find a subsistence by the cultivation of the roots of the country, he very naturally continues that means of subsistence; it is a sort of second nature to him, and no inducement, however strong, will make him leave it off; and therefore the consequence is, that he betakes himself to the cultivation of his ground when the periodical rains arrive.

African immigrants have not the same desire for provision grounds as the Creole.

"8953. Which is just when you want him most?—Precisely; the African labourer appears to know no such object, or at all events he does not appear to be conversant with the cultivation of those roots which are grown in the British West Indies; he has not therefore betaken himself to that object, and the consequence is that he is entirely dependent upon wages for his maintenance, and readily gives his labour throughout the week, securing to the planter that continuous labour which is so indispensable to the welfare of a sugar plantation.

"8954. With respect to weeding the canes, in those tropical climates weeds grow so rankly, and rise with such celerity, that after a shower of rain, if you have not got the negroes to weed the canes, the weeds smother the canes; not only diminishing the produce very largely, but injuring the quality very much: that again is just the period when the negro wishes to go to his provision grounds, instead of attending to the weeding of the cane field?—The cultivation of the cane is continued of course throughout the year. A well-cultivated field of canes should have the labourers through it once in six weeks; and unless they are regularly sent through the field once in six weeks, in the more seasonable districts of the island, where the seasons are regular, most certainly the produce will not be half what it otherwise would be. In the early stages of the cane, there is no plant that suffers so much from the presence of weeds and the want of air; if you can cultivate your fields very highly, and keep the canes perfectly clean, they germinate, that is to say, one plant throws out a dozen shoots in the place of three or four, or five, and every succeeding shoot is larger and more juicy than the previous one, till in a well-cleared and well-manured field the row is perfectly full of those succulent shoots; and where they are so cultivated and brought to maturity with skill and care, the returns per acre are very abundant. Those returns are not now to be had in general.

Negroes, usually, are willing to cut the canes, on account of their perquisites during crop-time.

"8955. With respect to the cutting of the crop, you are not subject to so much inconvenience, are you. They are more willing to come and cut the canes?—They are naturally more willing, because they partake of the sugar, the cane-juice, and rum, and so on; but I would state very particularly that the planter has to neglect every operation to secure his crop, and that, in fact, his sufferings in the period of crop-time are quite as great from the want of labour as at any other time. It has been repeatedly said by men who have chosen to see the condition of the planter through a wrong medium, that no canes have as yet been left upon the ground. The reason is manifest; the planter proceeds to realize his crops, at whatever loss or whatever neglect to the cultivation generally.

"8956. When the crop is ripe for cutting is the period when the planter becomes comparatively the slave of the labourer; the labourer has him entirely at his command?—The labourer has him entirely at his command. In some instances under my own observation, the people have left the canes to spoil in the cane yard; but I am bound to state that in that respect a better feeling has arisen, and I do not think a judicious planter would be likely to lose any quantity of canes in that way; but he most certainly neglects the cultivation in the season of the crop."

Natives of Jamaica, although docile in general, would not submit to such reduction as would enable the planter to compete with the man-stealer.

"8957. If the planter were to attempt to reduce the wages to a price corresponding with the price of his sugar, do you think the negroes would refuse to gather in the crops?—I have great confidence in the native population of Jamaica; they are a docile and a kind-hearted people, and left to the impulses of their own hearts, I believe their conduct would be comparatively good and unexceptionable: but I believe also, and indeed I know, that if there were any general attempt made by the planters of that country, even after the most mature deliberation and explanation, to reduce the wages of the labourer to a rate commensurate with the present prices of the produce, or to a rate which would enable him to compete with the man-stealer, one scene of conflagration might ensue from one end of the island to the other."

He is asked the following questions in respect to the number of Africans which would suffice for the cultivation of Jamaica, and the degree of protection that he would require if it were guaranteed for 10 years:—

"8967. The Committee have had evidence laid before them, that, under certain arrangements, it is thought that 30,000 Africans might be induced to emigrate every year from certain districts of Africa, as free labourers, to the West Indies. If that could be accomplished, do you think the planters of the

West

West Indies generally, and pretty unanimously, would be willing to pledge themselves to import as many women as men, if they could import them at 10*l.* a head, and if they were at liberty to import them under contracts binding the imported negroes to work five years for them?—In the present state of the sugar market, and if the British planter is to be condemned to compete in the home markets with him who steals the labourer, any measure of immigration, in my opinion, would only add to the difficulties of the colonist.

Immigration is injurious, if the planter has to compete at present.

“8968. Do you think if 10 years’ protection were guaranteed to you at the rate of 10 *l.* a ton, the Jamaica planters would be willing at their own risk, at the cost of 10 *l.* a head, to import as many women as men from Africa, supposing those Africans so imported were imported under contracts to serve for five years with the importer?—I am quite sure that if immigration became, from the improved aspect of their affairs, desirable, the planters would most readily import an equal number of men with women, and that they would be quite satisfied to take a shorter period than five years of contract; and I say so because, in the case of St. Thomas-in-the-East, where immigration has had so good an effect, there are scarcely any contracts existing at this moment; and yet the presence of those immigrants has been most salutary.

Planters would introduce immigrants, if the state of affairs improved.

“8969. That is because you seem to think the nature of the African is so distinct from that of the native population, that he would not be tempted away by the desire to cultivate provision grounds?—Precisely so.

“8970. Has not it been found that coolies, when imported without contracts, have worked in that way?—Coolies have all been imported under contracts, but coolies are not at all adapted for West Indian cultivation, nor do I think the proper description of people have been sent to those colonies.

Coolies are not adapted for West India cultivation.

“8971. If you were guaranteed 10 years’ protection at 10 *s.* a cwt. against slave-grown sugar, do you think that would impart such confidence to the planters and capitalists engaged that they would be willing to set to work again, and advance money for the importation of Africans at such a rate as 10 *l.* a head?—I have no doubt they would make a most painful effort to do so. Whether they could by their own means accomplish immigration to that extent, I cannot say; I am not of opinion, in the case of Jamaica, that it would require any very great number of Africans to put it into a healthy state. Whether their means would admit of their doing it is a question; that they would make a painful effort to effect it I have no doubt; but knowing that the revenue of Jamaica has fallen off in the past year 36,000*l.* sterling; that the treasury, at the last accounts, was all but empty; that money could not be raised in the present state of the money market of the world for such purposes, I cannot see how the colonists, unless aided by Government, could undertake any such operation.

Revenue of Jamaica has fallen off 36,000*l.*

“8972. Do not you think, if 10 years’ protection at 10 *s.* a cwt. were guaranteed to you, it would give confidence to capitalists in this country to advance money for such a purpose as African immigration?—I do. Sugar is an article which has ever attracted capital; and I have no doubt the planters would give to Government every security over their estates readily, and would stake their last shilling to give effect to such a proposition.

10 *s.* protection for 10 years would restore confidence.

“8973. The immigration of 30,000 Africans, equally divided according to the population of the West Indies, would give to Jamaica about one-half, which would be in 10 years about 150,000 Africans?—If such a measure were carried out, Jamaica would attain to a state of high prosperity, and this country derive its supply of sugar from a more certain and steady source than it has ever yet done, but a greatly less number of liberated Africans would answer our purpose.

With protection 15,000 Africans or less would give prosperity to Jamaica, and a cheap and steady supply of Sugar.

“8974. Do you think if 150,000 Africans, in the course of 10 years, at the expense of 10 *l.* a head, men and women, were imported into Jamaica, that at the end of those 10 years Jamaica would be able to compete with slave-growing countries?—If this country vindicated its treaties by putting down the slave trade, most certainly much fewer would enable us to do so.”

With respect to Coffee Planting, he states that the produce of Jamaica at one time reached 35,000,000 lbs., whereas the crop of 1846 was only 7,000,000 lbs. When the crop reached 35,000,000 lbs. the price had risen to 5 *l.* and 6 *l.* a cwt., and at the conclusion of the war, and for several years after the war, it ranged from 60 *s.* to 160 *s.* a cwt. The average of the five years ending with 1833, the last five years of slavery, was 17,645,002 lbs. On the average of

Coffee Planting in Jamaica.

the next five years it came down to 7,412,498 lbs. The next five years, he says, have not been made up, but there is a further diminution, he should say, to 5,000,000 lbs. He says, "This time last year, if in Jamaica Coffee produced 30*l.* sterling for a cask of 7½ cwt., the same Coffee is now only worth from 16*l.* to 18*l.*" He is asked whether they suffer as much from the want of continuous labour in the Coffee Plantations as in the Sugar Plantations? He replies, "At one moment, when the Coffee becomes ripe, and unfortunately the bulk of it is ripe at about Christmas, it then drops from the trees, and if it is not instantly picked the decay is so rapid, that the loss is very severe; but it is not so precarious a cultivation as the sugar cultivation." He is asked if he conceives, if things go on as they are now going on in Jamaica, the island is likely to find a revenue to meet its expenditure? His answer is, "Certainly not." He informs the Committee that the public revenue of the colony in the period of slavery averaged about 120,000*l.* a year. In 1834 the expenses may be put down at 150,000*l.* sterling, and now they average 300,000*l.* sterling. He says the direct taxation for purposes connected with the measure of Emancipation was, upon an average of years, equal to 50,000*l.* a year. "The parishes had to raise, for local purposes, a sum by direct taxation varying from 120,000*l.* to 140,000*l.* sterling; one-half or two-thirds of that were to sustain improved institutions, the consequences of the Emancipation Act." He says, "Including churches, schools, police, and sanitary establishments, the sum has been, on an average of years, equal to 150,000*l.*"

Revenue of Jamaica during Slavery and Freedom.

Proceeds of the Jamaica Sugar Plantations in 1833.

Ditto in 1843.

Repeal of the Navigation Laws of no benefit to the colonists.

He says that, upon the average of the five years ending 1833, the net proceeds of the Sugar Plantations were 3,192,637*l.* but afterwards corrects himself, and says that it was not the net value, but the gross produce; but the expenses were trifling; he estimates the expenses certainly under one million pounds sterling. He says that the gross proceeds in the five years ending 1843 were only 1,213,284*l.*; and he believes they have remained about that. Asked whether the repeal of the Navigation Laws would be any benefit to Jamaica, he answers, "If you mean a special enactment in favour of the colonies, the colonies would be benefited to some extent; but the measure being general, it would not be of the slightest importance to the colonists."

He is asked these further questions about the Navigation Laws, and the expense of drogherage, and the tonnage dues in Jamaica, and he gives the following answers:—

Navigation Laws

"9035. If the Navigation Laws were repealed, *quoad* the British West Indies, and not as regards Brazil and Cuba, and the East Indies and Java, there would be a benefit to you?—The chances are, that either the colonists or the consumers would be benefited; but admitting that the colonists would be benefited to the full extent, I do not consider that they would be benefited more than 20*s.* a ton, because freights at this moment are 4*s.* 6*d.* a cwt., or 4*l.* 10*s.* a ton; and we can easily arrive at what they would be were the Navigation Laws abolished, by knowing what they are now at this moment at Havannah: at this moment they ask, at Havannah; 3*l.* to 3*l.* 10*s.* by the last returns.

"9036. Is not there 15*s.* a ton drogherage in Jamaica?—They can afford to carry sugars much cheaper from Cuba and Porto Rico than from Jamaica, inasmuch as they are produced in great abundance, and brought to one general port, from which the vessel loads, without the heavy charge of drogherage. In Jamaica, vessels have always had to collect their produce along the shores of the country, from the various bays and creeks at which the sugars are put down from the various plantations. Cuba is on a much larger scale than Jamaica. Jamaica consists generally of narrow valleys, with narrow outlets to the sea, therefore spreading the produce in small quantities round the coast. In Cuba there are vast plains and vast harbours, upon a scale of greater magnitude than is to be found in other colonies.

"9037. In Cuba, the ship takes the freight from the wharf?—Yes.

"9038. Are not there very heavy tonnage duties in Jamaica?—There are tonnage duties; but I suspect that the tonnage duties are heavier in Cuba. The tonnage in Jamaica, in 1845, produced 14,000*l.* sterling. There is also a charge for lighthouses.

Tonnage tax in Jamaica

"9039. £14,000 is the tax upon tonnage in Jamaica alone?—Yes; in one year it rose to 15,000*l.* sterling."

On the subject of Cuba he is asked, and answers, the following questions :—

“ 9049. You say you have been in Cuba, and in the slave colonies of the United States ; have you any information to give to the Committee upon that subject?—The price which sugar bore there in 1841 was 10*s.* per cwt., in one new district on the south side of Cuba, called Cien Fuegos, in which four years. previous to my visit 25 estates only existed, 75 were then laid down. I ascertained that as many as 500 men, without a woman, were worked on one estate, kept in strict confinement at night, and bloodhounds lying close for the purpose of keeping them together. I crossed the island on Sunday, and I saw on that day the gangs universally at work, driven by the lash, and the plough at work. They treated with great derision our measure of emancipation ; they pointed to it as a failure, and gloried in the benefits which it conferred upon them. At Havannah I was carried to see some fine vessels, the swiftest sailing vessels that were ever built, ~~as~~ being those that were engaged in the slave trade, and which defied British cruisers to overtake them ; they were called Baltimore clippers. In travelling in steamboats in voyages along the coast of Cuba, there happened to be one or two commanders of vessels who had just made successful voyages to the coast of Africa ; they were much caressed, and were objects of admiration.

Cuba.

“ 9050. As having escaped the British cruisers ?—As having made successful voyages. At that very moment there were proclamations issued in the official gazette of Havannah against the slave trade ; but I heard a merchant of eminence say, who I do not doubt at all was engaged in the slave trade, that the governor of that day would receive no more representations at all from Mr. Turnbull, the consul, ‘ that he dreamed dreams over-night, and sent them to him in the morning.’ My own conviction is, that one-half of the persons held at this moment in slavery in Cuba are held in that state in violation of the existing treaties between this country and Spain ; and I say so, seeing the ages of those people, knowing how soon the slaves are worked out and killed in that country, for there is no reproduction there.”

Half the slave Cuba have been made is in violation of treaties.

DEMERARA AND GRENADA.

Your Committee examined Matthew James Higgins, Esq., a gentleman well known as a popular writer, a Demerara proprietor, with an interest in Sugar Plantations in Grenada. This gentleman went out to the West Indies, in the winter of 1838-39, at the period of the cessation of the Apprenticeship ; has again been out to Demerara a short while back, and returned from it exactly a year ago. The whole of his evidence will well repay perusal. He, too, gave in the following Abstract of Returns, showing the cost of producing Sugar :—

M. J. Higgins, Esq.

ABSTRACT of RETURNS showing the Cost of producing Sugar in the following West India Colonies, during the last Three Years of Slavery, Three Years of Apprenticeship, and the first Three Years of Free Labour. *

Comparative cost of producing Sugar during Apprenticeship and Freedom.

COLONIES.						Average of Estates.	—					
							s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Jamaica	-	-	-	-	-	22	10	5 ½	9	2 ½	29	2
Grenada	-	-	-	-	-	13	9	2 ½	9	—	24	9
St. Vincent	-	-	-	-	-	3	7	3 ½	7	1	21	6
Guiana	-	-	-	-	-	9	6	6 ½	8	2	24	11
Tobago	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	5 ½	11	2	27	10.
Trinidad	-	-	-	-	-	2	9	5	8	3	32	6 !

The average cost is exclusive of interest on land and plant, and is inclusive of rum and molasses.

Mr. Higgins stated that the income from the estate he held in Demerara, he believed, upon the average of 16 years previous to emancipation, before he came into possession of it, was 5,000*l.* a year. Mr. Higgins is asked these questions :—

Strike in British
Guiana.

"9823. You can explain to the Committee the very different effect which a strike on the part of the labourers has upon the sugar planter in the cultivation of his cane and the manufacture of sugar, and the effect of a strike, however disastrous it may be, of labourers for wages engaged in a cotton factory, or even in an iron or coal mine in England?—I will illustrate that by what is taking place upon my own estate at this moment. I expected to have made this year 300 hogsheads of sugar; 50 of them would have been made in the months of December and January. I received intelligence from the manager that he expected a particularly good yield from the last 50 acres of canes. These accounts not only convince me that that sugar has not been made, but that those canes, instead of being cut when ripe, and probably producing a hogshead and a quarter an acre, would have to be turned over, and probably, whenever I may be enabled to reap them, will not produce more than three quarters of a hogshead, and that not of such good sugar. Besides, there are the young canes on the estate, which will have remained unweeded for upwards of six weeks or two months, supposing the people then go to work; and anybody who understands anything about planting, will easily see the fact that the yield of canes which have remained so long unweeded will be most materially diminished when they come to be cut.

Effects of the strike.

"9824. People in this country can scarcely imagine the rapidity with which the rank growth of weeds will smother the sugar canes?—In the rainy season the weeds will positively conceal the young sugar cane altogether. Even in the manufacture of sugar it is difficult to describe the inconveniences of the smallest strike. The negroes of the estate are divided into small parties, one to cut the cane, and one to bring it home, and so on. A strike of one of those small bodies will very often greatly impair, if not destroy, the whole of a day's work; and it constantly happens that you find the people will not bring home the canes when cut, or that the mill people will not work to put the mill round.

"9825. The striking work for 24 hours will destroy the produce of a whole year, under those circumstances, as far as the canes already cut are concerned?—As far as that quantity of canes is concerned.

"9826. It is not only that the weeds, if permitted to grow with this rankness, smother the canes and prevent the same quantity coming to maturity, but they lessen the quantity of the sugar to be obtained from those canes that survive?

—No doubt of it. At the end of this year if I were asked, "How is it that the Cuban or the Brazilian produces more sugar per acre than you do? it must be because you do not cultivate your cane with the intelligence he does," I should find it difficult to defend myself; yet the fact is, that just at the time when if I could get a regular supply of labour to weed my canes, and carry on the operations of my estate, I might make my sugar advantageously, the labourers sometimes will knock off; and it is upon that account that our produce per acre is very much impaired, by the impossibility of our cultivating the canes so well as they ought to be cultivated.

"9827. In like manner, if the labourers think fit to strike work at the period when the rain comes, and the cane-holes should be dug, and the canes planted, that destroys the crop for a year and a half afterwards?—Of course it does.

"9828. In the same way if the labourers strike work during the manufacture of the sugar, and leave the sugar in what are called the copper walls, in the course of 24 hours the liquor sours, and is entirely spoiled?—When I was in the colony in 1839, I remember seeing above 400*l.* worth of cane which had been set fire to, and it was necessary to cut; the negroes refused to grind it off; at the time work was very irregular and uncertain, and the whole of it was destroyed.

"9829. That could not have happened during slavery?—Certainly not.

"9830. The greater part of the cost of the manufacture of sugar had been completed to its last stage when that occurrence took place; it was just at the critical moment of realizing the crop, that the negroes, by striking, were able to destroy the fruits of all the previous outlay?—The canes were exactly in the same case as a fat ox would be if it had been killed, and they prevented your selling it or taking it to market.

"9831. The Committee have had a letter before them from Demerara, which arrived by the last packet, stating that the labourers had struck work, leaving what are called the copper walls full of liquor, and that it was expected that the labourers

labourers on every estate in the colony would follow the example?—My belief is, that when the last packet left, the Creole labourers on every estate in the colony had struck, and that they were doing their best to intimidate the Coolies and the few Africans from working also.

The Creoles in Guiana have tried to intimidate the Coolies and other immigrants.

“ 9832. The result of that, if it continues, will be, that the entire outlay upon the colony will be lost, and that there will be no return whatever?—Precisely so.

“ 9833. Can you give any further information to the Committee as to the causes to which you attribute the scarcity and dearness of labour in British Guiana?—I was looking at the pay-list of my own estate this morning, and I find I have 209 persons on the pay-list, but the average number of people who work is not more than 87; they come and do a day's work, and then go away again. During slavery, about half the male negroes used to work in the fields; the other half were boatmen, and carpenters, and blacksmiths. Every woman on the estate then worked in the field; now the case is altered; and as they get rich they keep their wives at home to take care of their houses, or look after the children, who used all to be reared in the nursery of the estate; and for that reason, at least half the female labourers have been taken from the field and from the estate, and applied to other purposes. That is one of the reasons why we have not experienced so much benefit as might have been expected from the 40,000 immigrants who are stated to have been sent into the colony since the commencement of immigration. Compare this with Mr. Scotland's estimate of the balance in favour of freedom.

Desultory manner in which the negroes work.

“ 9834. Have there been 40,000 introduced?—So I saw it stated in Parliament. The restrictions under which they have been imported have rendered their labour comparatively valueless, for we were not allowed to make engagements with them out of the colony; and when they came there, a great part of their time was spent in wandering about from one estate to another. I attribute, in a great measure, the mortality among them to that. They would stay a month perhaps with you, and at the end of a month they would walk off and wander about the colony in small bodies; and if you were applied to for any report as to their sanitary condition, all you could reply was, that they had walked off when their month was up, and you could say nothing about it. I think in that manner the mortality was heavier than if they had been obliged to remain upon an estate for six months and been taken the care of which the planter would have been forced, for his own credit, to bestow upon them.

Injurious effects from not being allowed to make contracts out of colony.

“ 9835. It has hitherto been the practice of the planters, has not it, to find them medical attendance?—It has hitherto been our practice to find medical attendance for all the negroes, but we were obliged to provide the Coolies very amply with medical attendance.

“ 9836. By an ordinance of the Government, those who imported Coolies were obliged to pay for a visitation every 24 hours, were they not?—I think every 48 hours. I think on referring to the ordinance it will be seen that no one in England under the class who pay income tax can hope to enjoy such medical attendance as we are obliged to find those Coolies. The ordinance states: ‘Be it enacted by his Excellency the Governor of British Guiana, with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy thereof, that upon and after the publication of this ordinance, every person employing, on any plantation or otherwise, immigrant labourers under contract for six or twelve months, as the case may be, shall engage at his own expense a duly licensed medical practitioner to visit such immigrant labourers once in every 48 hours, and oftener if required.’ I do not object to this, but I say that, under present circumstances, we cannot afford it.”

Planters find medical attendance every 48 hours.

The Witness is asked if the wages they are giving the free labourer in British Guiana would not enable him, in the course of two years, very easily to earn enough to pay his voyage out and home, and says, in reply, “It has been said that the best way of judging of the wages of the colony is from what are paid to the task gangs. On the Demerara Railway, which is now being made, it was stated in one of the last reports we had, that a labourer, for nine hours work per diem, earns 7½ dollars a week.” The statement that the Witness has given in with regard to beet-root sugar is so interesting that Your Committee will give it bodily to The House:—

Amount of wages earned on the Demerara Railway.

“ 9865. You have heard it stated, that it is the enormous increase of free-labour sugar in the East, which is the cause of your distress, and not the competi-

Free-labour Sugar.

tion of slave-labour sugar?—I saw a computation which was made some weeks ago in the 'Economist' to that effect, in which it is stated that at present there are 485,000 tons of free-labour sugar grown in the world altogether, 'irrespective and independent of the Acts of the British Legislature, either as regards slavery or protection against foreign producers.' The production of the East Indies being 70,000 tons, it has been shown before this Committee that the sugar importation from the East was very small as long as it was in competition with Brazil and Cuba, and only began to increase when it shared the protection which was given to the English West Indian colonies; and I believe evidence has also been given which proves that it is not likely to be continued, now that it is to be placed in competition with the foreign slave importing countries. Then there is the Mauritius, producing now 65,000 tons, which I think comes under the same category. There is Java too, from which 75,000 tons come. There is a gentleman of the name of Jukes who has published a book upon the subject; he was for some time in Java, and has written a full account of the sugar cultivation there; and he states that the labourers there will not work for the planters, even if they pay them, unless they are forced to do it by the Government; and that when a man hires land of the Government, he also contracts with the Government to be supplied with labour at 2½*d.* to 3*d.* a day; that they work 12 hours a day for that sum, and that the officers of the Government compel them to do that work; so that that can hardly be called free-labour sugar. I think that is very modified freedom, if it is not mitigated slavery. Then we come to the 100,000 tons of beet-root sugar. I will read the statements that were made about beet-root sugar. Mr. Wilson stated in the House of Commons, that 'a change had taken place with respect to the cultivation of sugar, of which few persons were probably aware. The quantity of sugar at present produced on the Continent amounted to more than two-thirds of the whole amount produced in our West India islands not longer than 20 years ago. The total quantity of sugar produced on the Continent at the present time was 100,000 tons, and that production took place not only in competition with slave labour, but under other disadvantageous circumstances. This was the competition to which the West Indian interests were exposed.' The Chancellor of the Exchequer stated also, 'there was a remarkable circumstance connected with the French colonies in the West Indies, where slave labour was employed. Some years ago the beet-root sugar manufactured in France began to come into competition with the colonial sugar, and the French colonists petitioned for the imposition of a duty on the beet-root sugar produced at home. In 1843 a duty was imposed on beet-root sugar, which was to increase five francs a kilogramme each year until 1848, when the duty on beet-root sugar grown in France, and on slave-labour sugar grown in the colonies and imported into France, would be equalized.' I thought that was a mistake in the report of the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer; but as his speech has since been printed and circulated, I believe from the Colonial Office, and that statement is in it, of course he believed it when he stated it; but as that would leave the duty on French colonial and home-grown sugar, when it is equalized, about 1,012*l.* a ton, it is very clear that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had no acquaintance with the subject at all; therefore I will only deal with the figures as Mr. Wilson has put them forth: In 1828, twenty years ago, the British West Indian colonies according to the figures published in the 'Economist,' produced 198,000 tons of sugar; consequently the quantity of beet-root sugar now grown in Europe according to the same authority (100,000 tons), is not two-thirds of that quantity, but very little more than one-half, a considerable inaccuracy for a professional statistician. In 1828 about 4,500 tons of beet sugar were grown in France; in 1838 that quantity had increased to 80,000 tons. Up to that date no duty whatever had been levied on it, whilst sugar produced by the limited and mitigated slavery of the French West and East India colonies paid 18*s.* per cwt. on raw sugars and 25*s.* per cwt. on refined sugars, and those of slave importing colonies, like Cuba and Brazil, and all other sugars whatever, a duty of 32*s.* per cwt., with an additional increase of 8*s.* per cwt. if imported in any but French ships. It is very clear, therefore, that up to 1838 beet sugar had not been in competition with slave sugar of any sort or kind. Mr. Macgregor states, in Part 4th, page 176 of his Commercial Tariffs and Regulations, that 'French colonial sugar costs at home on an average 40 francs per cwt. more than foreign colonial sugar, in consequence of the restrictions imposed on

East Indies.

Mauritius.

Java.

Beet-root.

Extraordinary error of
the Chancellor of the
Exchequer.

it to favour the beet-root.' In 1838 a duty of about 8 s. per cwt. was first imposed on French beet sugar; in 1840 the production had fallen down to 25,698 tons; the duty on beet sugar was in that year raised to 12 s. 6 d. per cwt. In 1843 the production having remained about stationary, the duties were again altered, an annual increase of 2 s. per cwt. being imposed upon beet-root sugar until August 1848, when the duties on French colonial and home-grown sugars will be on a par, about 20 s. per cwt. The duties on all other sugars remain unchanged. The population of France being 36,000,000, and the average production of their colonies (Martinique, Guadeloupe, and Bourbon) but 90,000 tons; it is obvious from the foregoing facts, that Mr. Wilson was in error in stating that in France that branch of industry had increased in competition with slave labour, and under other discouraging circumstances; for after all, when the duties were equalized next August, it would have enjoyed a monopoly of the supply of 36,000,000 of people, less 90,000 tons of French colonial sugar, which the French colonists could not in any material degree increase. According to Professor Dietrich, in 1838, ten years back, the Zollverein produced about 6,500 tons; Russia, 7,500 tons; Belgium, 15,000; and Austria, 2,300; that is, 31,300 tons. Mr. McCulloch states the production of France in that year to have been 80,000; that makes 111,300. Mr. Wilson states that the produce of 1847 in all Europe was 100,000 tons of sugar; but the truth is, that so far from there having been any increase in the last ten years, there has been a decrease of 11,300 tons. I endeavoured as far as I could to ascertain what the actual produce of sugar was for the last year. Mr. Wilson's information may be more correct than mine, but from the errors I have already pointed out in his data, I very much doubt it. I can only find that the Zollverein produced 14,000; Belgium, 4,000; France, 51,110; Austria, 6,000; Russia, 9,000; making 84,111 in 1847. Therefore if my figures are right, they would show a decrease of upwards of 27,000 tons in those ten years. I am perfectly willing, however, to accept Mr. Wilson's figures, which contradict him, by showing a decrease of 11,300 tons, instead of an increase. I believe that the duties are so arranged in Belgium, that when the production exceeds 4,300 tons, the duties on colonial and beet-root sugar are to be equalized; therefore I have no doubt that more than 4,000 tons are made in Belgium; but they cheat the revenue exceedingly, in order ostensibly to keep it under that amount, it being the interest of the producer of beet-root sugar to retain the protecting duty. If they were to make 400 more tons of sugar, they would lose that protection; therefore they keep it just under the limit at which it must arrive before the duties are equalized.

French beet-root Sugar.

Zollverein.

"9866. Mr. Wilson.] Are you aware that it has now got up to the highest point?—That must have happened within the last month or two, if it has happened at all. Taking Mr. Wilson's figures they will show that in 10 years the production of beet-root sugar in Europe has decreased upwards of 11,000 tons. It appears that in some of the States of the Zollverein the production of beet-root sugar has been abandoned; it has increased very much in Prussia, but in almost all the others it has decreased.

• "9867. Chairman.] Has not it a great protection in Prussia?—In the Zollverein foreign sugar in 1843 paid 30 s. per cwt. import duty.

Protection duty in the Zollverein.

"9868. Mr. Wilson.] You are aware that the duty on foreign sugar for consumption is not the real duty paid in the union customs upon sugar; they charge a very high duty upon raw sugar taken into consumption, but a very low one on sugar taken for refining, for the purpose of encouraging refining; hardly any raw sugar is therefore used in the customs union; it is almost all used in the shape of refined sugar?—I am aware that there is a considerable difference. I think if it is considered that what I have stated is the case with regard to beet-root sugar, if you deduct the 100,000 tons of beet-root sugar, 65,000 tons of Mauritius sugar, and 70,000 tons of East India sugar, and make some allowance for the mitigated slavery of Java, there only appears 30,000 tons remaining of Manilla, Siam, and China, besides what is produced in the British West Indies, out of those 340,000 tons which we shall have to compete with. I am not informed as to Manilla and Siam, but I have no doubt that the portion of the 30,000 tons coming from China has not been in consequence of any increased cultivation, but only that the high prices have tempted speculators to bring it over, and that they have burned their fingers in doing so, and will not attempt it again.

Consumption of Sugar
and price in France.

"9869. *Chairman.*] Is not there also another answer as to beet-root sugar, that the price of sugar in France was, at the period of the late disturbances, about 5*l.* 11*s.* a ton higher than it was in London under the general protection which is given to colonial and home-made sugar in France?—So I have understood.

"9870. You stated that 80,000 tons is the average produce of the colonial sugar of France?—Ninety thousand tons is the average produce of Bourbon, Martinique, and Guadaloupe, and there were 51,000 tons of beet-root sugar produced in France in 1847.

"9871. That makes 140,000 tons of sugar to be divided among 36,000,000 of people?—Yes, and with 26,000,000 we consumed 290,000 tons; therefore that will show that the home-grown and colonial sugar of France has a very considerable protection, the home-grown having the monopoly of the home market, less 90,000 tons of French colonial, which cannot be increased."

"9874. When you speak of the slave-grown sugar introduced, you speak of the sugar entered for home consumption. The quantity imported was 100,000 tons, and upwards; and the remainder is hanging over the market, and hanging over the heads of the British planters, who have large stocks on hand?—Naturally.

"9875. It has been a matter of discussion whether sugar can be grown by free labour as cheaply as by slave labour, and whether or not the British colonies, had they been permitted to retain their slaves, could have grown sugar at such a price as to compete with the slave-grown sugar of other countries: is not it the fact, that whilst the British colonies were allowed the use of their slaves, they did, in 1829, 1830, 1831, and 1832, produce sugar as cheap as it is sold now?—We did so.

"9876. You were perfectly capable of meeting and successfully competing with the slave-grown sugar of Brazil and Cuba?—I think we were. I will point out to the Committee that one circumstance has been either ignorantly or dishonestly cited as a proof that we were as badly off in those years as we now are, because the price of sugar was the same. I see that is put forward in the report of Sir Charles Wood's speech. It is not stated that the cost of production was much less at that time. The paper I have already put in will show that a hundredweight of sugar grown in Jamaica in those years only cost 10*s.* 5½*d.* to make, while subsequently it cost us 29*s.* 2*d.* to make, and therefore the same prices which would have left us a fair profit formerly, would ruin us now.

Loss on the estate of
Mr. Higgins.

"9877. And you have also stated that the estate which you now possess, when in the hands of your predecessors, had averaged a clear income of 5,000*l.* a year, whereas now it does not do anything of the kind?—This year, I shall lose.

"9878. Can you tell the Committee what the estate has done for you in the last two years?—In 1843, I made 300 hogsheads of sugar, averaging 16 cwt. net over here; the profit was 2,779*l.* In 1844, I made 315 hogsheads; the profit was 1,051*l.* In 1845, I made 293 hogsheads of sugar; and the profit was 495*l.*; and in 1846, I made 220 hogsheads of sugar, and the profit was 1,176*l.* That would give the average income of the four years, 1,375*l.* In the present year I shall make 250 hogsheads; and, at the present prices, I expect I shall lose about 1,000*l.* I will give what would have been the result in those four years, supposing the prices had been as they now are. In 1843, I should have gained 609*l.*; in 1844, I should have lost 180*l.*; in 1845, I should have lost 2,457*l.*; and in 1846, I should have lost 1,555*l.*"

The monetary crisis
has not affected Cuba
Sugar.

"9882. *Mr. M. Gibson.*] Perhaps some part of it to the monetary crisis?—Were it so, that would have affected the estates in Cuba as much as it has done ours; but such does not appear to be the case.

"9883. *Chairman.*] When it is attempted to be alleged that it is the monetary pressure, and not the Act of 1846, which has produced the evil, is not there a clear and distinct contradiction to be found to that in the circumstance that British sugar has fallen 13*l.* a ton, and slave-grown sugar has maintained its price?—It is rather higher I think now than it was prior to the Act of 1846. I have an estimate of the profit of a sugar estate in Cuba in the years 1845, 1846, and the present year. It is a very large estate, belonging to an absentee proprietor, who lives in Paris; it is managed by his agent. It is an old estate, not particularly good land; that is to say, it does not produce much above a hoghead an acre; therefore I am not going into an extreme in quoting it, because they say there are some estates in Cuba that produce three or four hogheads. * Profit of the Saratoga estate on the crop of 1845 and 1846; 4,000 boxes of
clayed.

clayed sugar weighing 16,000 cwt. equal to 20,000 cwt. of muscovado,' (they calculate that five tons of muscovado contain the same quantity of saccharine matter as four tons of clayed sugar,) 'made from 933 acres of canes.' In order to compare the estate with the details already furnished to the Committee of British plantation estates, nothing has been deducted from the annual profits for capital invested in plant and land; the calculations are made, taking the dollar at 4s.; the produce sold for 12,899*l.* in Cuba; the expenses were 7,430*l.*, leaving a net profit in 1845-46 of 5,469*l.* The crop of 1846-47 was a more ample crop than the previous one, but I am not able to say how much, so I will therefore take it at the same as the previous crop. It sold at 7*s.* a cwt. more than that of 1845-46; that would add a profit to the above of 7,000*l.*, leaving the profits of the estate in that year, 12,469*l.* As the prices of the present year are equal to what they were when this calculation was made, I calculate that the proprietor of this Saratoga estate would only make 5,400*l.* It is therefore very clear that the acts of the Legislature have affected the price of our sugar much more than they have that of slave countries."

Returns from an estate in Cuba.

Mr. Higgins gives this evidence in respect of Slavery in Cuba:—

"9905. *Chairman.*] You have already said that the average production of each negro in Cuba is about two tons:—More than that. I have here some questions, which were answered by Mr. Tolme, who was then our consul at the Havannah; and who is a very intelligent man; we sent him over a number of questions respecting Cuba, to be answered, and he says that, taking the average, they would produce about three tons per negro of clayed sugar."

Information regarding Cuba from the Consul at Havannah.

"9912. Therefore the rule of working the slaves day and night is pretty universal:—It is the general rule there to work them at night. If they had very large clarifiers they could grind off enough juice in the day to prevent their having to keep the mill going at night. That is what used to be done in our colonies, when we used to work night and day; but when the clarifiers are not big enough to do that, they are obliged to keep the mill going. The people, when the clarifiers are full and there is a little interval, all drop to sleep. You see them lying about on the heaps of canes, but as soon as the coppers have been struck and refilled, you hear the crack of the whip, and the work goes on again.

"9913. When the crack of the whip is successful they are not struck, I suppose, but if it is not successful they are punished?—The plan is this: in the buildings there is a platform round the engine, just over the mill. The driver has a long whip, like a French postboy's whip, and he leans over the bar in front, when they are feeding the mill, for instance. The negroes run up with their bundles and throw them down into the mill. Sometimes the mill is not fed, and then this fellow, from his rail, strikes the first man that comes up with a bundle of canes. I said to him once, 'That is the very man you ought not to strike;' but he told me it came to the same thing in the end, and I have reason to believe it did. Upon none of the estates that I was at did I see the men formally punished. I suppose they would be unwilling to let one see it. I only saw them struck in that way. I remember a deformed woman who was put to scrape the bits of cane out of the channel in which the juice ran from the mill to the clarifiers; there was a grating through which it was to run, which got choked up if those bits of cane were not removed. This woman gradually dropped to sleep, and then the fellow would go to one side and strike and halloo at her, just as you would strike an animal. He found out that she was neglecting her work by the grating getting choked up and the cane juice running over the side. The people in the field are stimulated by a driver or mayoral on horseback, armed with sword and whip. They generally have dogs with them, to prevent the slaves skulking from work in the large fields of cane; they could never get them out without dogs.

Mode of working the slaves in Cuba.

"9914. The proportion of women on the estates is very small, is it not?—I think it is estimated that the black men are to the women about 10 to 1; but this gentleman with whom I stayed told me that he had been employed upon a plantation where there were 400, and no women, and that the results were too horrible to be mentioned. I was myself upon a cattle farm, where the proprietor told me that he never allowed any women upon his estate at all. They never will allow the gang of one estate to mingle with the gang of another; they keep them quite isolated.

Proportion of women slaves on estates in Cuba.

"9915. Do the negroes appear to be very sulky?—They appeared really so debased and degraded, that they did not even seem to have the energy to be sulky. I never had been in a slave country before, and I could not conceive that human beings could be so debased; I have seen more misery in Ireland, but not such unintelligent misery as that seemed to be."

Drivers in Cuba go armed.

"9918. Does the driver of a Cuba estate go armed?—They generally go armed with a long cutlass, and they are attended by a couple of bloodhounds."

"9919. Are the negroes locked up at night?—On the sugar estates they are locked up in a large square stone building."

"9920. With dogs outside?—Yes, which are very well trained indeed. I observed to one of the Americans who was there that his dogs looked rather heavy. In order to show me how good they were, he caught hold of a negro and pretended to struggle with him, and the dogs would instantly have attacked him, if the American had not lifted up his hand to stop them. They walk about among the negroes without pretending to see them as it were, just as a well-behaved dog will walk by a cat; they never appear to fraternize with the negroes at all."

He is asked at what reduction of wages from the present he thinks the planter in British Guiana could go on:—

"9922. At what different price from the present do you think it might go on?—If we had more labour, and could reduce the wages, no doubt we could cultivate Sugar much more cheaply than we do."

If wages were reduced half, estates might go on in Guiana.

"9923. What reduction of wages would enable you to bear up against so low a price as now exists?—That depends upon whether you think we have any right to get interest upon the plant, and capital sunk on the estates; but I think if we could reduce wages one-half we could go on."

"9924. Do you imagine that there is the smallest prospect of reducing wages one-half without a large importation of fresh labourers?—I think we shall be burnt out before that. I think the next packet will bring intelligence of more fires in the colony."

He is asked what his opinion would be of all the colonies having the same advantage of importing labour to the amount that they allege to be requisite, and the effect that such a proceeding would create upon the production of Sugar, to which he answers: "It would increase the quantity of Sugar, and we should have enough to supply this country, and a little more. What we should make more than this country would want would go into the markets of Europe, and under those circumstances our price would be regulated by the price of Slave-labour Sugar; but the great advantage would be, that when we made an abundance of Sugar, though we should get low prices we could bear them better, because, even at the present prices, supposing it costs 2,000*l.* to make 100 tons of Sugar, you can make 200 tons for 3,000*l.* On the other hand, supposing our crops failed, the effect of a protection would be to ensure us a high price, though when the crops were abundant our prices would go down, because the surplus which we should have to send out into the markets of Europe would regulate the price. At any rate we should, in such a case, enter into competition with Slave-labour Sugar, with money in our pockets, and not as we now are, bankrupts."

The benefits resulting from increasing the produce in Guiana and protection.

Asked about the power of Demerara to grow Cotton, Mr. Higgins answers: "When we took the colony from the Dutch it was entirely a cotton-growing country." Asked if throughout the world, where Sugar comes into competition with Cotton, the cultivation does not revert to Sugar, he answers: "I believe that is taking place in Louisiana at present." He is asked the following questions about Java:—

Java.

"10050. Mr. Wilson.] You have expressed an opinion that Java sugar is not entitled to the appellation of free-labour sugar?—I have."

"10051. Are you aware that it has always been treated in our Acts of Parliament as free-labour sugar?—I am."

Reasons for stating that Java Sugar is raised by compulsory labour.

"10052. Will you state the ground upon which you form the opinion that you have expressed?—I derive my information from Jukes's Account of Java, which I think is the latest and the most authentic. He states that the labourers are not much disposed to work, that no planter can get their work except through the interference of Government, and that in renting the land the Government

Government undertake to supply the planter with labour at from $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $3d.$ a day for 11 hours, and night-work at double that amount. I am aware that this is in contradiction to the evidence of a gentleman who has been examined before the Committee; but Mr. Jukes is a man of considerable attainments; he has written a very complete account of the sugar cultivation, and that is what he states, that those men are so compelled to work by Government.

"10053. Had he visited Java?—He had not only visited Java, but he had enjoyed great and rare facilities for acquiring information. He was there twice; he went with Captain Blackwood, who commanded the surveying expedition, and the Dutch authorities gave them leave to travel all over the interior, which is a privilege not generally given to Europeans.

"10054. Do you gather from his book that when the Government let a plantation, they also enter into a contract with the planter to furnish labour at that rate?—That is the conclusion which I come to. What Mr. Jukes says is this: 'The Coolies or workpeople are supplied (*i. e.* compelled to work) by the Government, both for cutting canes and for the work in the mill. From the natural indolence of the Javanese, great difficulty would be experienced in procuring workpeople without the assistance of Government.' Mr. Jukes here explains in a note, 'the meaning of this is, that the people are compelled to work by their rulers, native and Dutch, and to receive such wages as they may choose to order them; if not a system of slavery it is one of the most complete serfdom. Fifteen doits ($2\frac{1}{2}d.$ English) is paid a daily labourer by fabricants who have old contracts; 20 doits by those of later date. Daily Coolies are obliged to work from six in the morning to six in the evening. For night-work they generally receive double wages.'"

WEST INDIES IN GENERAL.

Your Committee called in and examined John Innes, Esq.; and as this gentleman was a Witness called on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, Your Committee consider that his evidence must be held to be of such importance that they are disposed to give it in great detail, in the body of this Report. Mr. Innes stated that he had been connected with the West Indies for forty years; that his connexion was mercantile; that he had no property there himself, and he was a West India Merchant residing in London. He stated that he went to the West Indies in the year 1834. His answer is, "I went there in the year 1834, for the purpose of satisfying myself as to the working of the Apprenticeship; and upon that occasion I offered to the Secretary of State to the Colonies to procure any information he might desire upon any subject upon which he thought I could render useful information. He therefore gave to me a letter of introduction to each of the Governors, with a request that they would afford to my inquiries every possible facility. Having obtained such an introduction, I felt it to be an obligation upon me to be more minute than I otherwise should have been in my inquiries, and to report to the Government the result of them upon my return, which I did in the year 1835. I visited, I think, nearly all the West India Colonies. The rotation in which I visited them was, British Guiana, Barbadoes, Trinidad, St. Vincent, Grenada, St. Lucia, Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Dominica, and Jamaica." He said he had not been in the West Indies since the period referred to; he made that tour, which occupied 12 months, but since that time he had had such communication with the West Indies as enabled him to know pretty well what was going on there. He is asked what he considers the present condition of those Colonies to be, and he proceeds to read a description of the state of the condition of one of the most extensive Planters in Berbice, one of his correspondents:—

"His estate is in New Amsterdam; he says, '*We are all endeavouring to reduce expenditure in every way. We have met with serious opposition from the labourers, and they are for the most part idle, sullen, and refractory. You will have heard of the frequent cases of incendiarism here and in Georgetown; this appears to be the means by which the labourers think they revenge their wrongs, and if it be persevered in, must put the crowning stroke to the planter's misery.*'"

—"Our situation is certainly one that requires all the fortitude and energy a man can muster to meet the sad breach of faith, in the unequal contest we are engaged

*J. Innes, Esq.,
a Government witness.*

*Account of the West
Indies in 1834.*

*Misconduct of the
negroes.*

Two-thirds of the crop in Trinidad, likely to be destroyed by the ruin of the Planters.

The expectant crop will nothing like meet the expenses in Jamaica.

Not one shilling can be raised on the security of the colonies.

Conduct of this country when awarding compensation.

Conduct of this country in reference to the Apprenticeship.

engaged in with slavery and the internal discontented population we have here." *I have a letter from one of the leading men in Trinidad, who states that there is a most abundant crop upon the ground, where he fully expects two-thirds of it must inevitably remain from utter inability to obtain the means of paying the labourers to take it off.* From Grenada the statements I have received are to the effect that the attornies, who have from their own means carried on the cultivation, are now left without any prospect of being repaid, inasmuch as the proprietors in this country refuse to repay or to render any assistance; that is with regard to British Guiana, Trinidad, and Grenada. Then I can speak as to Jamaica: With respect to the only properties I am connected with, we have refused to send supplies or to honour any bills, because a most intelligent attorney sends to us an estimate, by which it appears that at the present prices *the expectant crop, which is always greater than what is realized, will nothing like meet the expenses.* If I were to be asked whether the same degree of discredit attaches to the colonies in this country, I can only refer to a paper which has been laid before Parliament, by which I see that the Governor of Trinidad desires to borrow 30,000 *l.* here, upon the security of the colonial revenue, and gentlemen in this country who are authorized to raise the money, advertised, at the request of Lord Grey; and here is the result; it is the 23d page of the Parliamentary Paper No. 62. The letter is signed by Charles Marryatt and Thomas Hankey, jun., and addressed to Lord Grey: "We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 27th ultimo, desiring us, as agents for the Trinidad loan, to take immediate steps for raising the sum of 30,000 *l.* In reply, we have now to state that we immediately inserted in all the daily newspapers the advertisement of which we beg leave to transmit a copy, inviting parties to tender for the Trinidad bonds, but we regret to inform your Lordship, that although the advertisement was repeatedly inserted, and yesterday was fixed on as the last day for the purpose, we have not received a single tender for the loan, and we fear, therefore, that there is little probability at present of our being able to carry you Lordship's instructions into effect."

I believe myself that it is utterly impossible to raise one shilling on the security of West India property in London or in the colonies. If the Committee should desire further information upon the distress which exists, there would be no difficulty in producing it. When it is proposed to deal with the property of any individual in this country, the customary mode, as a matter of course, is to have it determined by judge and jury what compensation shall be given. Instead of that course having been pursued in the present case the Parliament took upon itself to say what should be the compensation; not a compensation for taking over the property, but, as the preamble of the Act says, "Reasonable compensation to persons hitherto entitled to the services of such slaves, for the loss they will incur by being deprived of the right to such services." It was impossible to tell what loss would be sustained in consequence of their being deprived of their services, and there was no attempt made to ascertain it. There was never an inquiry of any kind set on foot. First, a sum was named as a loan; secondly, a sum was named as a gift; and, thirdly, 12 years' apprenticeship was to be thrown in. Afterwards those 21 years were reduced to seven years; so that it showed that the parties who undertook this legislation knew very little of their own minds, and that they knew very little of the subject. In the Act of Parliament I find there is no attempt made to prepare the slaves for working efficiently as freemen; there is that which was calculated to prevent their working as freemen. Then the next great error, or crime I should almost call it, was in making all the children under six years of age free without making the slightest provision for bringing them up as efficient labourers. There was nothing on earth provided for that; they were all to be thrown loose upon the world. There is a provision in the Act, indeed, that where the parishes are not able to support them they should be apprenticed, but there is no provision made for bringing them up as useful members of society; and I found, to my great surprise, on going to Demerara, that there were there 9,873 children made free, and there was an instruction from the Governor of Demerara, Sir James Carmichael Smith, to the Special Magistrates, to discourage their becoming apprentices. The Governor, in the instructions he issued to the Special Justices of the Peace on the 1st of August, strongly discountenanced such apprenticeships, and it appears that his advice has been universally followed. In Barbadoes and in St. Vincent I find that such was the case, and it was discouraged in every possible way, and therefore those children were not about to be brought up
as

as useful labourers. Another in 1840, was neither more nor less than to declare that what was pledged to the planter of a seven years' quiet apprenticeship should be abandoned. There are many other things which could be stated here to show how exceedingly impolitic it was to pass such an Act of Parliament as was done.

"13384. Do you believe that the change of the Sugar Duties which took place in 1846 has materially affected the condition of the West Indies?—I entertain the opinion myself, that much more has been attributed to that Act, as regards the past, than ought to have been attributed to it; I hold that the Act having passed in 1846, it is quite impossible that there can have been any great accession of sugar produced hitherto in consequence of that Act, but I think prospectively the effect may be very different.

"13385. You do not believe that it would be fair to attribute the state of distress which notoriously exists in the West Indies to the operation of the Act of 1846; but you trace it back to causes which existed before that?—I believe if the Act of 1846 had never been passed, the price of sugar would have been very nearly as low last year as it was; but I consider that the Act of 1846 having entirely destroyed confidence in the West India property hereafter, it has operated to deprive the planter of support.

The Act of 1846, though not the sole cause of distress, destroyed all confidence in West India property

"13386. What remedial measures are you prepared to suggest to the Committee as calculated to relieve the distress which exists in the West India colonies?—With respect to the Sugar Duties and Protection I say this: According to the Act regulating these duties, the Differential Duty on Foreign Sugar is to diminish annually until entirely extinguished. The first reduction has already taken place. I do not propose to increase the Differential Duty, or even to restore the first reduction, which has come into operation, as, however strong the claims of the colonists, I could not anticipate the sanction of Parliament. I should merely propose the suspension of further reduction for a period of three years, at the expiration of which time, the descending scale to be revived. A reference to the official tables of the Board of Trade will show that the present Differential Duty has not obstructed consumption, whilst it has afforded a seasonable assistance to the revenue, the continuance of which is not likely to be unacceptable to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I am aware that a large majority of persons connected with the colonies entertain the opinion that a greater protection than I propose is absolutely necessary to prevent the total abandonment of sugar cultivation in the British West Indies. They say, 'Under the present protection, sugar has fallen far below the cost of production, and therefore we must have increased protection.' I freely admit that prices have fallen greatly below the cost of production, but I cannot ascribe that fall exclusively to the lowness of the Differential Duty; the unprecedented money pressure has forced down the price of every article of which there is not an absolute scarcity (as in the case of coffee, of which there is a diminished stock and increased consumption); and the accumulation of foreign sugar in this country, much of which will eventually find its way to the Continent, has accelerated and increased the fall. Under this pressure the Differential Duty is found insufficient to sustain prices, but it does not follow that it will be inadequate, under ordinary circumstances and accompanied by other measures; if not so accompanied, its total inadequacy cannot be denied. That is with respect to a Protecting Duty; I consider, upon looking into the subject, that the protection of 6s. does not actually exist; for from a statement which I made out and gave in to the Colonial Office, in January last, I find that the average price of British Plantation Sugar, including duty, was then 36s. 5½d.; and I find that Foreign Sugar which has been purchased in this country for consumption here, was worth as nearly as possible 6s. more.

Mr Innes suggests a differential duty

At present the protection by differential duty is only nominal

"13387. Chairman.] Is that the average quality of Foreign Sugar?—The average of Foreign Sugar brought into consumption here. The Duty upon that, presuming it had been an ad valorem duty, would have been 16s. 4d., and therefore being 20s. the protection is 3s. 8d.

"13388. Mr. Labouchere.] What, in your opinion, would be the consequence of Government proposing, as has been suggested by some witnesses to the Committee, to enact a permanent protection of 10s. in favour of British Sugar?—I consider that there never can be any satisfaction in holding West India property while there is protection of any kind; that is my opinion. If you were this year to grant 10s. protection, there is no security that it would not be taken away next year; at all events there would be agitation. I hold, there-

fore, that what is wanted is, that the West Indians should be placed in a position of doing without protection, and till they are placed in that position West Indian property can never have a saleable value.

"13389. What do you conceive would be the effect of insuring, as far as it can be done by Act of Parliament, to the West Indies, permanent protection of that description, upon the efforts which are making there to economise the cost of production, and upon the rate of wages?—*My own opinion is, that confidence in Parliament has been so entirely destroyed, that there is no Act which could be passed which would inspire the colonists with the slightest degree of confidence, and I will tell the Committee why: I have here a despatch of Lord Glenelg; he in a circular despatch, dated the 12th October 1835, says, "THE PURCHASER OF A CLAIM UNDER THE SLAVERY ABOLITION ACT DOES NOT INCUR THE SLIGHTEST ASSIGNABLE RISK OF LOSING HIS MONEY; HE HAS FOR HIS SECURITY THE NATIONAL FAITH OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, PLEDGED IN THE MOST SOLEMN FORM IN WHICH SUCH AN ENGAGEMENT WAS EVER YET MADE. IF THE SELLER SUPPOSES THAT ANY DANGER REALLY EXISTS, HE LABOURS UNDER AN ILLUSION SO GROSS, AS WITHOUT FURTHER PROOF TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HE IS NOT IN A STATE OF GENERAL INFORMATION TO DEAL ON EQUAL TERMS WITH THE SPECULATORS TO WHOM HIS RIGHT IS TRANSFERRED. This is as to the security under the Act of Parliament of the services for seven years. I will give the Committee an instance of what occurred in the Mauritius: "A gentleman, a respectable planter, in the Mauritius, soon after the commencement of the apprenticeship, engaged the services of 47 apprentices for the whole period of the apprenticeship, at six dollars per month for each, payable monthly. In 1837, the person of whom they were hired having occasion for money, sold the contract, 'through a sworn broker, to Mr. Jollivet, a most respectable notary at Port Louis, a Frenchman by birth, but an Englishman by his loyal attachment to our Government.' I believe an Act of Parliament would have no effect, because nobody would believe in it; therefore we must be placed on a footing of doing without an Act of Parliament, that is to say, raising our sugar at as low a rate as it can be made at elsewhere.*

"13390. You believe, after the many changes that have taken place, whatever Parliament might enact with regard to protection, it would inspire no confidence, and it would be pretty much as if no such Act had passed?—Precisely so. It is right, probably, that I should state, in my own justification, what I have looked into. In 1824 there was an Act passed with a view of making it felony for British subjects to be engaged in the foreign slave trade. In 1843 there was an Act of Parliament passed, rendering that still more stringent. In 1846 there was an Act of Parliament passed, the preamble of which, in my opinion, ought to have been that "*It was deemed requisite to encourage the investment of British capital in Foreign Slave Colonies,*" because that is the obvious effect of it. The Act of Parliament has induced many British capitalists to look to the slave colonies for investment; and, therefore, the money which ought not to be applied in that way, according to the Act of 1824 and 1843, will be applied in that way under the Act of 1846.

"13391. Supposing the colonies did believe that Parliament was able and willing to secure them a permanent protection of 10s. upon every cwt. of sugar, what do you believe would be the effect of that conviction upon the colony, upon the cultivation of estates there, and upon the rate of wages?—I believe the effect of it would be, to transfer the whole of it into the hands of the labourers

"13392. Why so?—Because the planter will always give as much as he can possibly afford to give.

"13393. It has been suggested to this Committee that a protection of 10s. should be given for two years; what in your opinion would be the effect of that?—I certainly think myself that injury might arise from it, but I can see no possible good, because I conceive myself that it would only be protracting a struggle which never can be maintained. Unless, as I have already stated, the colonists are placed in a position of being able to do without that protection, two years could be no advantage.

"13394. Upon what ground, then, do you recommend the protraction of the present rate of protection for a period of three years?—Merely to afford to the Government an opportunity of supplying the means which I think may enable the planters to do without protection.

"13395. Do

There is at present no confidence in Parliament.

Lord Glenelg's circular despatch, regarding the sacred pledges of this country in regard to Apprenticeship

Serious loss to those who made engagements on the faith of that pledge

Proposed new preamble for the Act of 1846

Mr. Innes reasons for not approving of permanent protection

"13395. Do you mean to give time for the importation of labour, and other measures of that description?—And the other measures which I will mention.

"13396. Are you satisfied with the measures which Government has recently taken to promote immigration into the West Indies?—I believe myself, if previous Secretaries of State had shown the same disposition to support the planters as is now shown, we should have been at the present moment almost able to have done without protection; I therefore think that the measures which are now being pursued may be calculated to be of advantage, *provided the Government will pay for them; but if Government are not to pay for that introduction of immigrants, they will be totally useless, inasmuch as there is no means of doing it in the colony.*

There are no funds at present belonging to the Planter to introduce immigrants.

"13397. Are you satisfied with the arrangements which have been proposed with respect to the system of contracts for labour in the West Indies?—Nothing can be more unwise than the early proceedings, and I think what is now done is in a right direction.

"13398. Do you conceive that the alteration of the Navigation Laws would confer any benefit on the West Indies?—I consider that occasionally a benefit might arise to the planter. Last year a correspondent of ours had his sugar accumulating in Trinidad; he was obliged to erect temporary buildings to hold that sugar, and at last had to take advantage of a ship at 6*s.* freight, when there were American vessels there which would have brought his produce to this country at 3*s.* Had there existed at that time permission to bring produce in foreign vessels it would have been an advantage."

Navigation Laws.

This Your Committee think must be taken as a *mere surmise*, founded in error. There could be no test of the willingness of the Americans to carry Trinidad Sugars to England at 3*l.* per ton, and inasmuch as all the evidence before Your Committee goes to prove that in the month of March Sugar freights of all nations, at Cuba, Bahia, Porto Rico, and Santa Cruz, varied from 5*l.* to 5*l.* 15*s.* per ton, whilst at New York, freights were 9*s.* 6*d.*, and even as high as 12*s.* per barrel of flour, of 196 lbs., the lowest freights being equal to 5*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* per ton, it is hardly credible that the American would have stood to his word had the Navigation Laws permitted his sincerity to be tested by a mercantile transaction.

"13399. At what period of the year was that?—The commencement of the crop in the early part of last year.

"13400. What is the season of the crop in Trinidad?—The first crops are generally made in the month of March, and there was no ship there to take the produce.

"13401. Were there any American ships there?—There were American ships there at the time. *With respect to protection, I wish not to be misunderstood; I consider that were the protection which now exists to be withdrawn, it would amount to a total cessation of sugar cultivation in the West Indies. But that is not a thing which ought to be placed to the account of the planter, but it is a measure which is necessary for the Government, to prevent the destruction of the colonies.*"

If the protection now existing were withdrawn, there would be a total cessation of Sugar cultivation in the West Indies.

"13406. Do you believe that in the long run the British West Indies, supposing they had fair play given them, could compete with Cuba, the Brazils, and other foreign sugar-producing countries?—*I believe I am somewhat singular in entertaining that opinion, but the opinion I entertain distinctly is, that if one-third of the money which has been laid out against the slave trade had been employed in the improvement of the West Indies, the West Indies might have produced sugar as cheaply, and that there would have been an end of slavery.*"

If one-third of the money laid out against the slave trade, had been laid out in improving the West Indies, Sugar would be made there as cheaply as by slave traders.

"13413. Mr. Miles.] Have you considered how long a period it would take in order that remedial measures might be introduced into the colonies?—*I consider if there are no remedial measures to be introduced, and protection was to be withdrawn, there must be an enormous reduction in the supply of sugar, and therefore an increase in the price of sugar; that it could not be supplied in a less period than three to five years, and therefore it is that I propose the protecting duty should continue for that period. Three years appears to be the shortest period which would enable the colonists to help themselves, or rather the Government to assist them, for I look upon it that relief must come from the Government.*"

If no remedial measures be given, and protection be withdrawn, a large supply of Sugar will be lost, and high prices will rule.

" 13417. Mr. Hope.] Are the Committee to understand that the additional amount of compensation enters into your project?—Most assuredly. I conceive the West Indians are entitled to be compensated for actual losses. If a Railway Bill passes in this country, a jury has to ascertain what the loss sustained has been. The loss could not have been ascertained in 1833, but it may be ascertained now.

" 13418. Have you made any estimate of the amount of that compensation?—No; I should think it presumptuous in me to do so, but as to the principle I can entertain no doubt.

" 13419. Do not you think it would be as difficult to obtain the sanction of Parliament to that as to any great addition to the protecting duty?—I consider there is such a love of justice in the British character that when the case was put before them it would be impossible to resist it year after year, though it might be resisted for a time.

" 13420. Mr. Labouchere.] You have stated that in your opinion a system of protection would not be beneficial to the West Indian interests themselves?—Precisely so; I think a permanent protection would be injurious.

" 13421. Mr. Hope.] Instead of a permanent protection, you propose an indemnity?—I propose that we should be paid for our losses, and that then means should be given to us to go on, and we might be enabled to raise Sugar as cheaply as slave countries."

" 13427. Mr. Labouchere.] *Are you of opinion that the great commercial embarrassment which has recently prevailed has had much to do with the distressed condition of the West Indies?*—*I think certainly it has.* Under common circumstances, I conceive that if the whole of the Sugar of the world were to be brought into this country, it would rather be an advantage than otherwise, inasmuch as British capital would keep all the Sugar here till it was wanted on the Continent; but it came here at the moment when money was dearer in England than it was on the Continent, and therefore Sugar was forced on the market, and an injurious effect was produced in the market in consequence. If slave Sugar is to be made, I do not consider it is a disadvantage its coming here."

The great commercial embarrassment has been one cause of the West India distress.

Beet-root Sugar.

ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF BEET-ROOT SUGAR.

	1845.	1846.	1847.
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
France - - - - -	28,000	40,000	53,000
Belgium - - - - -	5,000	5,000	7,000
German Commercial Union - - - -	10,500	13,000	13,000
Other German States, and Austria -	6,000	6,000	7,000
Russia - - - - -	7,000	8,000	8,000
	56,500	72,000	88,000

" For 1848 the collective estimates are put down at 90,000 tons, as although it is thought the production in the German Commercial Union may show rather a material increase upon 1847, this will be compensated by a corresponding diminution in France.

" In Germany the Beet-root Sugar is at present subject only to the most trifling duty, to defray the Government expenses of controlling the manufacture to ascertain the quantity. Common Sugar pays at 16 s. per cwt. In France Beet-root Sugar pays the same duty as French colonial produce; say, francs, 20 per cwt. In Belgium Cane Sugar of all qualities pays about 19 s. per cwt.; Beet-root only about 13 s. per cwt."

JAMAICA, CUBA, AND ST. THOMAS.

Your Committee then examined Mr. Alexander Reid Scott, a merchant in Kingston, Jamaica, who stated that he had been in Jamaica, with the exception of a few months, for the last 20 years, but he had also been in Cuba and St. Thomas. He is asked if he thinks Free Labour can compete with Slave Labour? He answers, he does not think it can. He is then asked, and answers the following questions:—

Mr. Scott, of
Jamaica.

"13438. Upon what do you found your opinion?—I found my opinion upon this; I know that 10*s.* in the island of Cuba affords a very fair return to the planter who is not too much immersed in debt; I have purchased sugars in Cuba at 7*s.* 6*d.*

Remunerating price
of sugar in Cuba.

"13439. Of what quality?—A very fair quality of sugar; equal to the middling quality of Jamaica sugar.

"13440. Have you any reason to believe that the planter from whom you purchased them obtained a remuneration?—Not at 7*s.* 6*d.*; but I have reason to believe that 9*s.* and 10*s.* will pay the Cuban planters. I may mention to the Committee, as an instance to show what the profits to the sugar planters in Cuba are, that a friend of mine is the owner of an estate, called Carolina Estate, in the neighbourhood of Cien Fuegos; he has 330 slaves upon that estate; he has made this last year 1,800 hogsheads of Sugar, equal to about 900 tons; his molasses have paid all the expenses of cultivation, and left him his sugar clear.

"13441. And you have reason to believe that he has made a large profit upon his plantation this year?—A very large profit."

"13445. Do you think it likely, that with this cessation of trade, and the cessation of cultivation, any considerable revenue can be raised from the island?—I think not; I think the revenue, which is now derived under the Import Bill, must cease almost entirely; even during last year there was a deficiency of 36,000*l.* in the revenue over the previous year.

Falling off in the
Revenue of Jamaica.

"13446. Was the expenditure larger than the receipts last year?—The expenditure exceeded the receipts last year; and I understand, by the last accounts from Jamaica, that the chest in the treasury is perfectly empty; indeed, I am told that they had to borrow 9,000*l.* from the bank to pay the last quarter's salaries.

"13447. Do you anticipate that they will be forced to make a considerable reduction in the salaries?—There will not be revenue enough to pay the present rate."

"13450. Speaking in round numbers, do you think the expenditure could be reduced by one-half?—No; I should think it might be diminished one-third. Our expenditure during slavery did not amount to 150,000*l.*; it amounts now to upwards of 300,000*l.*; the public expenditure in 1845 was 281,000*l.*; the parochial expenditure 104,000*l.*; making 385,000*l.*"

He is asked whether he has any other statement to make to the Committee; he answers, "I merely observe that with respect to the Navigation Laws, a general opinion prevails, that the alteration of the Navigation Laws would be favourable to Jamaica, but I think that is a fallacy. I think that while interfering with the Navigation Laws would affect the British shipowner, it would not benefit the situation of the unfortunate West India Planter. He is then asked, do you think the freights which commonly rule from Jamaica are excessive, when you take into consideration the vessels which are employed, and the drogherage they have to pay, and the time they have to wait for their produce. He answers, "I do not think so, considering the length of time they are detained. I have known vessels detained in Jamaica four or five months; and looking to the heavy expense they incurred for drogherage, I do not think the freights paid on Sugar from Jamaica excessive." Then there is this question put, "There is no possibility of any remedy, is there, inasmuch as the Sugar

Navigation Laws.

Estates are so wide apart, that it is impossible to bring any great quantity to one particular spot. He answers, it is quite impossible, except by drogherage. In reference to his previous evidence, in which he said that one of the consequences of the estates going out of cultivation would be that the revenue would cease altogether, he is asked :

Revenue depends on the wages paid to the labourer.

“ 13475. In what way do you make out that the revenue is to cease altogether ? —If the estates ceased to pay wages the people will not have the means of purchasing the articles imported ; it is only by getting wages that the negro has the means of purchasing his salt-fish, or flour, or anything else ; if he gets no wages he cannot have the means of purchasing them.

“ 13476. Do you suppose that the whole sum spent in wages has been an increasing amount ?—The increase in the import duties has not been very great of late years ; in 1842 they amounted to 127,000*l.* ; in 1843 to 190,000*l.* ; in 1844 to 192,000*l.* ; in 1845 they fell off to 186,000*l.*”

JAMAICA AND TRINIDAD.

Philip Miles,
Esq., M.P.

Expenditure in and
proceeds from five
estates in Trinidad.

Major Fagan's regula-
tions.

The next Witness Your Committee examined was Philip Miles, Esq., a Member of the Committee. Mr. Miles gave much valuable evidence which Your Committee can recommend to the attention of The House. Among others, he put in a statement of the average and aggregate results of the cultivation of five estates in Trinidad for three years, from 1845 to 1847, inclusive. It appeared that on these estates the total expenditure in those three years was 59,000*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* ; the total receipts for the net proceeds of rum, molasses and sugar were 46,037*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*, showing a balance of loss of 12,963*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.* The wages amounted to 33,780*l.* ; therefore he estimates, that supposing a reduction of 33 per cent., namely, 11,260*l.*, could be made in the wages of labour, those estates would still remain a debtor in the sum of 1,703*l.* He said, however, that by the last advices he received, the wages had been reduced to the amount of about 25 per cent. He is then asked what the effect would be of an improved price of 10*s.* a cwt. upon his produce of sugar which in the three years had amounted to 2,578 hogsheads. He answers, that an improved price of 10*s.* a cwt. without such a reduction of wages would show a profit of 4,000*l.*, instead of the loss of 12,963*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.* He is asked if he had seen a pamphlet, addressed to the Chairman of the Committee and the Committee, with respect to Trinidad, in which it is set forth that so long as certain industrial regulations in respect of the employment of Coolies, were enforced, drawn up by Major Fagan with the sanction of Lord Harris, the Coolies proved very advantageous to the island. He answers, he has seen that, and he believes that that statement, as far as his own knowledge goes, confirmed by letters received at the time, is substantially correct. He is asked, if that code of regulations was disallowed by Lord Grey ; he answers, he believes it was. Your Committee here introduce the articles of those regulations to which Mr. Miles referred as particularly beneficial for the interests of the Planter :—

“ 3. In order to secure to the cocoa planters, and smaller sugar proprietors, an equal share in the general benefit to be derived from the labour of the Coolie immigrants, they (the Coolies) will be divided into gangs of 50 and 25. The appointment of sirdars, or Coolie overseers, being, in the opinion of his Excellency the Governor, of rather questionable expediency, is left discretionary with resident proprietors and managers, as the best judges how far it may be useful or otherwise.”

“ 5. His Excellency, Lord Harris, having reason to think that Coolies are frequently met on the public roads, and in the neighbourhood of estates, in almost a state of nudity, notwithstanding the ample covering provided for them under the foregoing rule ; managers of estates, as well as all police authorities, are earnestly enjoined to exert themselves for the abatement of a practice as offensive to decency as it is disgusting in a civilized community, and demoralizing in example to the other labouring classes of the island. Here, where the

Coolie's

Coolie's money savings may be said to be a clear gain to him, his food and clothing being supplied to him from the manager's stores, no excuse for such inadequate covering of his person can be allowed; and it will accordingly be the duty of the superintending magistrate, whenever he visits estates, to inquire into the state of the clothing of the Coolies, and to authorize the renewal of such articles as they may appear deficient in, from having either lost or sold them; managers repaying themselves the cost by deductions from the next subsequent pay issued to them, carefully preserving the bills as vouchers of the expenditure.

"6. The hours of labour, when the Coolies are not employed at task-work, allowing one intermediate hour for breakfast, are fixed as follows: From 6 a. m. to 4 p. m. during the *entre coupe*, or out-of-crop season; and during the crop time, or whenever any extra labour is to be performed, the Coolies are to work as long as the other labourers on the estate; and as an essential means to ensure prompt and punctual attendance at work at the appointed hour on the part of the labourers, the absence of which must be so detrimental to the successful management of a property, it is recommended that all labourers on estates be summoned at the same time to work, and by sound of bell; and in order to secure the estate against the loss which a wilfully lazy and drawling performance of work on the part of the Coolies must occasion, as well as to put an effectual check to what, if persevered in, must be replete with annoyance and vexation to managers, distracting their attention from their immediate duties, it is recommended that a register (to be sworn to, if necessary,) of all Coolies guilty of such dereliction of engagement, and of all particulars necessary to its clear establishment against them, be kept, so that at the expiry of their contract they may be made to make good the days which the register may clearly show the estate had lost by such wilful failure to fulfil the same. No one requires a stricter surveillance of conduct while at work than the Indian labourer, whose propensity to lie down, and smoke while at work, and to seize every available opening for evading it, is proverbial."

"8. As the practice of engaging contract-expired Coolies offering themselves for hire, without being able to produce from their late employers certificates of regular discharge, &c., might be productive of much inconvenience and trouble, and have besides a prejudicial effect on the conduct of the Coolies, superintendents of estates are not to consider themselves at liberty to entertain any Indian immigrants presenting themselves for service under such circumstances, nor until they can produce the required documents, or the superintendents have communicated in reference to them with their late employers, by whose statements they will be guided in entertaining them or otherwise. And that this regulation may come at once into operation, printed skeleton certificates are now in course of issue to estates, at the cost, in the first instance, of Government; one, duly signed by the manager, is to be given to each Coolie on his finally leaving the estate, being affixed by gum or other glutinous liquid to one of the inner sides of his pass-book.

"9. It is recommended that no manager should allow Coolies to go on leave without furnishing them with a ticket, signed by himself, specifying the name, period of leave, and locality to be visited; and to give more effectual operation to this rule, police constables are required to take charge of and send back to their respective estates any Coolies they may find wandering over the country unprovided with the above-mentioned tickets of leave, charging their respective managers with any expense the execution of these orders may occasion; the managers indemnifying themselves on the next ensuing issue of pay.

"10. Coolies to be regularly paid throughout the colony at the termination of each month, and never on any account at a later period, and by the managers themselves, and, never, under any circumstances, through the sirdars. This rule to be considered applicable to the issue of rations, clothing, &c."

"13. It having been brought under the cognizance of his Excellency the Governor that the Coolies on several of the estates have begun to indulge in rum drinking, in many instances selling their clothes, and even their rations, to procure for themselves this deleterious liquid, resident proprietors and managers are earnestly called upon to exert themselves, by every means in their power, to arrest at once the growth of what must tend to the nullification of

of every exertion that may be made for the religious and social improvement of these Coolie labourers, a people who have such strong claims on the philanthropy, as well as on the sense of self-interest, of their employers."

Coolie immigration.

He is asked if he had seen various testimonials with respect to this Coolie immigration, which are added in the Appendix to the Report of the Evidence, and he says he has read them all, and he knows several of their names, and that one or two of the gentlemen he has seen in this country; one was a correspondent of his own some time back. Then this question is put to him:—

Injurious results from the disallowance of these regulations.

" 13533. It appears, according to this statement, that Lord Grey, in 1847, disallowed this ordinance, and that the result has been that there has been a revival of the disturbance and irregularity, which caused so many remonstrances in the years 1841 and 1842, as regards the conduct of the Coolies?—*I believe that is perfectly true.* My own letters from different managers state precisely what has been stated here; they say that the Coolies they had no power over whatever; that they were running about in all directions, and that they no sooner got them, than they wandered to some different estates or feigned sickness. There are two or three remarks which I should wish to make respecting the Jamaica estates of which I have given a statement. Nos. 4 and 5, were sold last year; I recollect very well hearing the fact, which was notoriously commented on in the Jamaica newspapers; both of them together fetched 2,200 l.; No. 4, which was Bachelor's Hill estate, having in 1825 had 30,000 l. offered for it. I see from the evidence given before the Committee in Jamaica, that the gentleman who bought it, Mr. Jackson, only bought it for the purpose of taking off the actual value of the crop, and then abandoning it."

Information on Jamaica property.

Immigration.

He is then asked to state to the Committee his view with respect to immigration; he answers—

" My own opinion of immigration is, that its value has been overrated by a great many people. If I look at the population of the West India islands, I find that it is something like a million; but from the whole of the West Indies not above 140,000 hogsheads of sugar are imported into England; supposing you estimate the population employed in producing this at only one hogshead per man, which is, in comparison with the slave colonies, very small, it gives only about 140,000 people engaged in making sugar. Supposing you import 140,000 immigrants you would double your producing power at once, which would be an immense increase, and have a great effect. My own opinion is, that you do not require it. I think if the negroes knew, however, that you had the power of introducing a certain number of immigrants every year, and if they actually saw them come for one or two years, it would produce a very great effect upon them. I see that the despatches from nearly every governor say that the immigration they have already had has been attended with very great benefit, not so much in the amount of labour obtained from those immigrants, as in the effect it has also had upon the people of the colonies.

" 13535 What governors do you especially refer to?—I can mention almost every one Lord Harris, Sir Charles Grey, Governor Light, and one or two of the governors of the smaller islands. They all speak favourably of immigration, and the effect it has had; at the same time, I think if good laws accompanied such a measure, the effect of immigration would be very great indeed. Of course it depends very much upon the possession of capital, not only capital to bring them, but also capital to employ them; and the effect must be determined in a great measure by that; but very few thousands, I think, introduced the first few years into either Trinidad or Jamaica, would be attended with very great effect.

Moral effect of immigration.

" 13536. A very small proportion of labourers from whom you could insure continuous labour would secure the planter against his crop being ruined or his rum spoiled during the manufacture?—I think so, from all the evidence I have heard, and from the statements of the people I have conversed with. At the same time, it is a question very much like confidence in any other country; the negro knows the planter has not the power of going elsewhere to get labourers if he does not work,

" 13537. At

"13537. At present the planter is perfectly at the mercy of the negro?—Perfectly.

"13538. And the negro knows that?—He does; he knows that the planter cannot go to the coast of Africa and get labourers as he chooses.

"13539. Have you considered at all the cost at which Africans might be imported if there was no interference on the part of the Government?—I think the Africans might be imported at a very cheap rate. I will only state what occurred to myself when Lord Grey's despatch came out. I went to the Colonial Office to inquire if a vessel I had sailing then might call at the coast of Africa for negroes. I did so, not on my own account, but on the account of a resident proprietor who was very anxious to get some. From the Colonial Office, however, I could get no satisfactory answer, and it finally ended in my being told that they had taken two ships up, and they did not intend to allow any more. I could have done it that week, but I could not have done it since. The cost of getting those Africans would have been very small. I do not believe that it would have been a fortnight's longer voyage for the vessel to have gone round there than to have gone direct; the vessel had her supplies, and had plenty of room for the immigrants.

Cost at which Africans might be introduced.

"13540. It would have been only the cost of feeding the Africans in carrying them over, and the month's additional wages to the crew of the ship?—That would have been all.

"13541. Do you know what the number of the crew was?—I think the crew was 20; it happened to be a large vessel of 400 tons.

"13542. £. 3 a month to each of the crew would have been 60 l.:—Fifty shillings are the wages."

With reference to a question he had been asked, and to answers he had given with respect to the repeal of the Navigation Laws, he is asked if there is not great difficulty in Jamaica in getting ships to go to particular ports of the islands where sugars are shipped. He gives this answer:

Navigation Laws.

"13602. Is not there great difficulty in Jamaica in getting ships to go to particular parts of the island, where sugars are to be shipped?—A very great difficulty indeed, and that is the principal thing with which the shipowner has to contend; the ship has to go to get her cargo of sugar from one particular place, that cargo being brought from various districts; of course that subjects her to great detention, and great expense. If I could get my cargo at a particular spot, at a particular time, and I could put it on board in two or three weeks, I should be very happy to reduce my freights, and sail as cheaply as any American.

"13603. Those ships go to those particular parts of the island in consequence of the produce there being in connexion with the mercantile house which provides the ships?—Yes.

"13604. Do you suppose that in the ordinary course of trade the American would go to those spots to seek for freights, unless the produce was consigned to America?—I do not think he would; I think the American would only step in where he could load his vessel at once.

"13605. Supposing a ship were only to go to the principal harbours, can you form an idea of what would be the enhanced cost to the producer to convey his produce from particular estates to those principal harbours?—It would be very considerable; in fact it would be incalculable, supposing there were no railroad or tramroad; it is only the leading estates from which it would pay in that case to send sugar."

Referring to a statement that he had made, of 15 estates having been abandoned within the last six months, he is asked if he ever knew the same number of estates abandoned before, within the same period; he answers, never. That "since 1840, I have heard of estates being abandoned, but it has been at the rate of one or two a year." He is asked, if the panic at present prevailing were removed, he thinks there is any chance, without some decided encouragement being given to the Planters, that they would be able to continue their cultivation; he answers, "It would be impossible for them; I do not believe there is any capital in the island, nor will anybody advance capital; therefore it would be useless carrying on the cultivation." He is asked if he apprehends that the mere fact of the change from slavery to freedom tended to disor-

Information regarding abandoned estates.

This country had no idea of the difficulties accompanying emancipation.

Stipendiary magistrates.

The Governors should have greater latitude given them by the Colonial Office.

ganize society; he answers "Very much." He is again asked, "Do you think the effect of that was sufficiently appreciated in this country, when slavery was abolished?" He answers, "I think very far from it. This country emancipated the slaves, and said, You may now take care of yourselves, or rather they did everything they could against the well working of the measure." "There was a general impression," he is asked, "in this country, that if you once made a man free, he would immediately work better than a slave?" He answers, "Yes, there was." He is asked if he traces any part of the present result to that cause. He answers, "It may mainly be attributed to the want of labour; it is quite a question of labour." He is asked, "Do you think that the measures taken were adequate to reorganize society after it had been so disorganized by the sudden change." He answers, "I do not think so; from all accounts, the Stipendiary Magistrates took the part of the Negro against the Planter, almost invariably. Of late years justice has been fairly administered between both parties, and the thing has settled down very quiet." He is asked, if he conceives that the payment of 20 millions sterling was an adequate compensation for the loss of what was actually found to be the result of the change. He replies, "The compensation money generally has all gone into the hands of the Negroes." He is then asked to give his opinion with respect to those regulations which are noticed in the pamphlet, before referred to, as existing in Trinidad, and whether he thinks that the same regulations which were applied to the Coolies so successfully, should be applied to the new immigrants from Africa; he replies, "I think something of the sort should be done decidedly. What you want to get, is some control over the new immigrant, as soon as he arrives: to implant habits of industry, and in fact civilize them as early as possible. I do not think that is to be accomplished under a year." Then he is asked if he thinks the different Governors of an island ought to be invested with much more power than they have at present. He answers, "I think so. It is almost impossible for the Colonial Office in this country to legislate for islands some thousands of miles off. If your Governor is a good Governor, and I believe most of those in the islands now are supposed to be good Governors, it ought to be a sufficient guaranty to this country, that they will allow of no injustice nor cruelty, nor any approach to slavery to exist under them."

He is asked if he means, that with reference to the general regulations of the islands, he would invest the Governors with almost supreme authority? He answers, "I think it should be done either by the Legislature or the Councils, together with the Governor. I think the people themselves should have some voice in the matter; and if those persons are fairly chosen, I do not think there would be any great abuse possible." He is asked if he would not propose, that those regulations should be checked by the Colonial Office here? He answers, "They must be checked to some extent, but as to checking such regulations as these that were proved to answer their purpose, I think that is a sort of control that the Colonial Office ought not to exercise, because, as I understand, the reason of these regulations being disallowed was, that the emigrant was not supposed to be free to go from one plantation to another. You may as well say that colliers in this country are chained to a mine for a year, because they have a contract to work there during that period." It being observed on this, that there was no doubt the collier is chained to the colliery, but there is no doubt he is so chained by his own free will; he replies, "Exactly; and it is the same way in apprentices in this country. Lord Harris states he has seen Coolies walking about in a state of nudity. He says, this must not be allowed, for the sake of public decency; and he issues an ordinance forbidding it, and that ordinance is disallowed by the Colonial Office; and the consequence is, that people walk about without any clothes at all."

With reference to this same subject of the untoward interference of the Colonial Office at home, between the employer and the labourer, Mr. Shand, in giving evidence as to Antigua, says, "Various popular industrial laws that were passed in the island, under a desire to ensure the success of Emancipation, while Sir Ewan McGregor was governor, were disallowed by him." Mr. Shand further says, that "Antigua may maintain itself with the present prices, if the present reduced wages continued. The contracts for labour are nominally for a year, with a month's notice; but the proof of a contract being a month's residence in an estate's house, with a week or a month's work, the negroes reside in free villages and avoid working for a week, thus escaping the contract.

There

Mr. Shand's account of the interference of Sir Ewan McGregor with industrial laws in Antigua.

There is an objection to the introduction of Africans in Antigua, but the Portuguese emigrants are of considerable service." He says, "Though there may be, at times, an unwillingness to enter into a contract in the Colony, the unwillingness may, perhaps, be lessened by *Government supporting and advising them, the more so, as the unwillingness arose from one Governor, Sir William Colebroke, advising against them.* The law of contracts should be, if a man plants or prepares ground for a crop, he should be bound to work till that crop has been manufactured, with a month's notice on either side. The Madeira, or Portuguese emigrants were introduced under engagements to take them back; they were engaged at 1s. a day, of nine hours' work. Without the assistance of the thousand Portuguese introduced last year, the crop in Antigua would not have been got off at all. The Negroes were jeering the Planters, and telling them the crop could not be got off, except on their own terms; and yet the Madeira and Portuguese emigrants did not reduce the wages, because they were paid 1s. a day when the Negroes were paid only tenpence a day."

Conduct of Sir William Colebroke regarding contracts in Antigua.

GRENADA.—MALTESE IMMIGRANTS.

In like manner, Mr. Hankey, speaking of Grenada, says he was very unsuccessful in an experiment of introducing some Maltese emigrants under the contract; that at the period at the end of the apprenticeship, these Maltese would not keep to their contracts, and no redress could be got from the Stipendiary Magistrate. Those emigrants were probably spoiled by over indulgence.

Mr. Hankey on immigration and stipendiary law in Grenada.

JAMAICA.—COOLIE IMMIGRANTS.

Lord Howard de Walden states that the Cooly emigrants turned out very bad in Jamaica, from having been very badly managed. When they first came the Planters were tied down by strict regulations, which worked badly, such as finding the Coolies in rations whether they worked or not, and consequently they were always pretending to be ill, being fed whether they worked or not. The terms of these contracts were afterwards altered with the approval of the Governor, but the Coolies then became very dissatisfied, because not one of the interpreters could explain to them that the alteration came from the Government, and not from the Planters. Lord Howard de Walden stated that the Stipendiary Magistrate, appointed as a Protector of those emigrants, at a considerable salary, was not able to speak the language of the Coolies, or to make himself understood by them. In speaking of the Portuguese emigrants, Lord Howard de Walden said they had been very useful. At first they suffered from sickness, but, on recovery, they lived on better food, and worked harder than the negroes; the negroes ultimately, under the force of their example, worked much better than before.

Lord Howard de Walden on Coolie immigration and injurious restrictions in Jamaica.

B E R B I C E.

Henry Barkly, Esq., a Member of Your House, was then examined. Mr. Barkly is the proprietor at present of two estates in the county of Berbice, in the colony of British Guiana, and he gave a statement, in a tabular form, of the results of one of those two estates, at Highbury, which is so perspicuously drawn up that it tells the whole tale of Slavery and Emancipation in a single page, which is here inserted:—

Henry Barkly, Esq.
M. P.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of NEGRO LABOUR, CULTIVATION, and CROP on Plantation *Highbury*.

Estimated Market Price in 1834.	Extent.	Number of Slaves.	Valuation of Slaves for Compensation.	Compensation Awarded.	Average Income for 12 Years, ending 31 Dec. 1838.	Income, 1830.	Deficit, 1840.	Deficit, 1841.
£. 60,000	<i>Acres.</i> 2,500	387	£. 48,450	£. 18,555	£. 5,080	£. 2,194	£. 529	£. 3,500
				1832, Slavery.	1836, Apprenticeship.	1840, Freedom.		
				£. 2,985	£. 3,920	£. 8,440		
Contingencies in colony - - - -				£. 1,080	£. 2,410	£. 2,005		
Supplies from Great Britain - - - -								
Cost of Crop - - - £.				4,065	6,330	10,445		

	Years.			Cost of Production.	Interest on Capital, at Six per Cent. on 60,000 £.	Price at which Sugar was Grown, exclusive of Charges in Great Britain.
Average crop, three years slavery - -	{ 1831 1832 1833 }	<i>Hogsheads.</i> 457	<i>Cwt.</i> 7,000	6 s. 8 d. per cwt.	10 s. 4 d.	17 s. per cwt.
Year of transition - - - -	1834	616	—	—	—	—
Average crop, three years apprenticeship -	{ 1835 1836 1837 }	505	8,122	6 s. 1 d. per cwt.	6 s. 2 d.	12 s. 3 d. per cwt.
Year of transition - - - -	1838	361	—	—	—	—
Average crop, three years freedom - -	{ 1839 1840 1841 }	238	3,454	40 s. 3 d. per cwt.	1 5 d.	54 s. 8 d. per cwt.
Average cost, three years after immigration	{ 1842 1843 1844 }	250	3,750	30 s. 7 d. per cwt.	13 s. 4 d.	43 s. 11 d. per cwt.
Average cost last three years, including year of drought, 1846 - - - -	{ 1845 1846 1847 }	260	4,055	25 s. 10 d. per cwt.	12 s. 4 d.	38 s. 2 d. per cwt.

YEARS.	Money Wages.		Allowances to Labourers in the Colony.	Total Cost of Labour.
	Negroes.	Coolies.		
Five months of 1838 - - - -	£. 490	£. 230	£. 320	£. 1,040
1830 - - - -	2,373	545+	1,330	4,248
1840 - - - -	2,094	680	892	4,266
1841 - - - -	2,470	915	900	4,285
£.	8,027	2,370	3,442	13,839

The last three crops were more than average crops.

He explains, that the crop of the last three years was something over an average, and this was the sole cause of the apparent reduction in the cost of production. The same number of labourers produced a larger crop; besides which, there were more labourers employed on account of the immigration that was taking place, and that gave a greater command of Labour to the Planters. It was not so much that the nominal rate of wages was lowered, as that the Planters got more continuous labour, a labour of a better quality, and therefore, practically, the cost of labour was somewhat reduced in those years, though the rate of wages remained the same. He says, in many kinds of work on a West Indian estate, such as weeding canes, and turning the soil, it depends on whether the work is done faithfully and well; and in the former periods the planter was, not in a position to insist on its being done. In consequence, however, of Emigration, and a better supply of Labour, he was in a position of having the work more faithfully executed during the last period. He says, that the crop of the last year was quite the largest since Emancipation, and he made seven hundred hogsheads on his two estates. He is asked if the compensation money he got for the slaves compensated him for the loss of the profits

profits of the estate; his answer is, that "after allowing interest at four per cent. upon the compensation money, which I received, I estimate that my loss, by the Emancipation of the Negroes, amounts to 44,390*l.* upon that one estate. I ought to hold the 18,850*l.* of compensation money as an investment against the depreciated value of the estate; and as the estate at that time would have sold readily for 60,000*l.*, it is easy for the Committee to form an opinion of what the loss must be; at the present moment it would be quite impossible to sell that or any other estate in the West Indies." He is asked what the average price of his Sugar is; he answers, "I had some Sugar valued yesterday by my broker in Mincing-lane at 35*s.* and 36*s.* duty paid; that would be 21*s.* and 22*s.*" He is asked if Sugar has not rather a downward look at this time; he answers as follows:—

Comparison of the former and present value of Ilighbury Estate.

"I believe so. I have a paragraph which was taken out of a newspaper here, being a portion of the city article of 'The Times' of to-day, which is certainly not very flattering. It says, 'In the colonial markets during the week there has not been the slightest improvement. The importers of several kinds of produce have been again compelled to submit to lower prices in order to effect sales, which cannot now be accomplished in any case without a material reduction on the ruling prices. The importers of sugar have had to give way 6*d.* to 1*s.* per cwt., and there has been little inclination shown on the part of the grocers and refiners to purchase beyond their immediate wants.' That contrasts very strongly with another part of the city article, which states, 'Mercantile accounts from the Havannah to the 13th of February state that the sugar market was not in an active condition, owing to the high pretensions of the holders; only in a few cases, therefore, had transactions taken place, and the exports from the beginning of the month had been exceedingly limited. Most of the purchases had been for Spain, and the article selected being the finest quality, full prices were supported.'"

He is asked if he has not endeavoured to reduce his wages in British Guiana, and then gives the following very important information:

"My opinion was, when I considered the state of things in British Guiana, that the only chance that the planters had was to reduce their wages to a considerable extent, and upon talking the matter over with most of the leading gentlemen out there, I found that 25 per cent. was quite as far as they thought it would be prudent to go. I used every exertion in my power to get a resolution to make an attempt to that extent generally adopted. I left the colony too soon to judge what the effect would be. I took the greatest pains upon my own estate to explain the reduction of wages to the negroes on both the estates, and to state to them the reason of it, and I thought I had succeeded. I believed that they would have returned to their work after the holidays at Christmas, but from what I have learned since they have not done so; that is, not the native labourers of the colonies, though the immigrant labourers have turned out and have continued the cultivation of the estate for the present. I have here letters by the last mail since my departure from the colony, giving me an account of the attempt to reduce the wages since I left; they are certainly much less favourable than I expected; a considerable amount of ill-feeling appears to have been excited among the labourers by the attempt, and numerous incendiary fires have occurred. The first letter was sent me with a petition from the planters of Berbice generally. It was written by Mr. Laig, who is one of the largest resident proprietors in the West Indies. I believe he says, "Since you left this, things have gradually become worse, and they at this moment wear a most alarming aspect. There is no money in the place to pay wages, and on no estate is there any regular labour going on; with the exception of a few Coolies and Portuguese, there are hardly any labourers who have taken the reduced scale of wages, and every day adds to the number of what, I fear, we must admit to be incendiary fires. Provisions are becoming scarce; very few of the merchants possess the means of importing from America; and unless the banks resume business, and make money more easy for mercantile purposes, there is no saying how soon we may find ourselves in a state of famine. So long as the people have enough to eat, they may remain idle, without coming to open acts of insubordination; but if they (Africans, Coolies, Portuguese, and Creoles,) begin to feel the pinch of hunger, there is no saying to what extent of violence they may proceed. I have heard of many threatening

Attempt to reduce wages in British Guiana.

Letter from an extensive resident proprietor in Berbice.

speeches made by the people, but as yet there has been no evidence to prove any one of the many cases of incendiarism. No one can conceive the state of anxiety in which we are now placed; the loss we must all suffer is fearful to contemplate; but the danger we are physically placed in is the most appalling." That is a letter from one of the leading planters in the colony dated the 25th of January 1848. The accounts from my own attorney, who is a gentleman of great respectability, are quite confirmatory of that account. He states, "The immigrants are at work contentedly at the reduction you made; viz., of a 'bit' off each task, and consider the matter quite settled; and until I see more certainty of success elsewhere, I do not think it would be wise to disturb them. It is a most anxious time. I am inclined to think we must assume a more imperative tone; they are beginning to take it for granted *that the country is to be their own*, in which notion they have been confirmed by emissaries from Demerara urging them to hold out; and, consequently, on the West coast they now give out that they will not work at all, even if a guilder is offered them; that they will go to their own grounds. I fear the movements of the missionaries rather tend towards the same end, in their advocacy of the renting system." He says, "I think the safety of the whites depends very much upon the want of union in the different races of labourers, and I should be glad to see some more Madeiranese, and, if possible, Chinese coming in; the Coolies too would always hold by the whites. This is Monday, and we hoped the week would have commenced by a return to work; but De Vry informs me, there is no work doing at Providence, and none at Everton, though at the latter place they have been paid their arrears and offered a guilder for increased task." That letter is on the 17th of January 1848. Writing on the 2d of February, he says, "I wish I could send you a report of any improvement in affairs here, but there is none, unless the fact of the strike being more general and the dearth of money more complete can be considered such. We are still holding out for a reduction, and the negroes more obstinate than ever. Even on estates where they had been working at the guilder rates (as at Canefield and Lochaber), they have struck, and are making common cause of it. It is more than a question of wages with them; *there is a bad spirit abroad amongst them; they seem resolved to have possession of the estates themselves, and are combining together to effect this object.*" "You will perceive by the Governor's proclamations, how extensive the fires have been in Demerara. We have been greatly alarmed in town by the burning of a store in the front dam, by which Mr. Hart and his family were within an ace of being burnt to death. The fire was put both in front and behind the house, and the destruction was most complete; nothing whatever saved, not even a suit of clothes. Two other attempts were made, but the fire was discovered in time; viz., at O'Donaghue's and Ferguson's store. I can hardly suppose *this fine country is to be given over to the negroes.* I am interrupted by the entrance of a negro offering to rent Waterloo," which is an estate belonging to a friend of mine. I have also one other letter from the manager of my estate, which I should wish to read, as it shows the actual progress made in the reduction of wages. He says, "I cannot give you any information as regards other properties, except that little or nothing has been done on any of them. The symptoms of a turn-out which were visible on your last visit were fully confirmed in the ensuing week by a *general muster of the Africans and Kroomen, at the reduction of 4 d.* They evinced a good feeling at the same time, and commenced to plant provisions at once: thus showing that they were satisfied at the change, and endeavouring to make the best of it by their industry in their spare time. This continued until last week, when, unfortunately, the money was exhausted; and as no new credit has been opened a total stoppage would have taken place had Mr. Winter not sent me up a supply of provisions, which I hope will enable me to proceed. On mature consideration, I think it was a pity your proposal to the people was not 8 d. instead of 4 d., as I think that it might have been carried. In cane cutting I am attempting to get 16 feet for 1 s. 5 d. (instead of 2 s. 1 d. as formerly) with partial success. *If funds were available to pay them regularly I could effect anything in reason with the immigrants.* This will be a reduction of 34 per cent. in cane cutting. In every other department 4 d. has been faithfully deducted, and you may depend on seeing the result in the pay list. *I have not, however, had one creole at work yet, nor do I see the least disposition evinced to accept of the reduced rate.*

Safety of the Whites
dependent on the want
of union between the
Creole and Immigrant
Labourers.

Good conduct of the
African Immigrants.

Bad conduct of the
Creole negroes.

Without

Without them we shall soon be in a bad enough state; for though I may manage to make sugar without them, it is only by stopping every other description of field work that I can do so. This will soon tell on this year's crop. *The people seem to me to have an idea that by standing out they will soon get the estates into their own hands*; and with this in view it is probable their opposition may be protracted. The numerous incendiary fires, and the disposition to intimidate the Africans which they have evinced, show that a large amount of ill feeling accompanies it. *A cargo or two of people would do more to turn the scale in our favour than anything else.* My canes, you are aware, are sprouting, and consequently losing sugar daily. I am going to try to grind." This is the resident manager upon my estate. The former letter was from the attorney, who resides in the town.

Importance of the arrival of a cargo or two of immigrants.

Your House will observe, from this statement, the general moral effect of the introduction of immigrants into the colony of British Guiana is far beyond the value of the additional labour which they absolutely give to the industry of the colony.

Mr. Barkly, in answer to a question (10795), "The presence of a few Africans, Coolies, and Portuguese on this occasion proved the salvation of the colony?" answers, "I think entirely; the Planters themselves attribute the preservation of their lives to it. In one of the letters they say, that the different races in the colony is one great cause of the confidence they feel in their personal safety. They look on the Portuguese and Coolies as their friends in any struggle which might take place. I have always treated the moral effects of immigration as being far greater than the actual effects of the addition to the labour."

Mr. Barkly further states, that by the latest intelligence, the unanimous account of all the Planters is, that not one creole had returned to his work. Mr. Barkly then shows the great loss that must necessarily accrue, not only this year, but in future years, from this interruption of labour. He is asked, if upon a general consideration of matters he thinks, that should wages be reduced 25 per cent., sugar could be grown in competition with the slave labour sugar? He answers, "Not with other things remaining the same; not with the present want of continuous good labour and the high charges to which we are consequently exposed."

C U B A.

Mr. Barkly having stated that he had been six months in Cuba, the result of the inquiries he made was, that Muscovado Sugar in 1842 and 1843 cost from 4*l.* to 6*l.* 10*s.* in the island of Cuba; and that, in 1844, before the market price of Foreign Sugar was disturbed by the alteration of the duties here, the average price of the three previous years of the quality of Muscovado Sugar was about 8*s.* a cwt. He assumes, therefore, that if 8*s.* a cwt. was a profitable price, the bare cost of production probably could not be more than 6*l.* 10*s.* a ton. He had information respecting the very best estate in Cuba, on the south side of the island, which produced upwards of 3,000 hogsheads; according to that statement of the expenditure of the estate, the cost of production would appear to be 3*s.* 9*d.* a cwt., no deduction being made, however, for wear and tear of slaves, or anything of that kind. He thinks, the fairest criterion is that which he has set forth, that 8*l.* a ton was certainly a remunerating price in Cuba before the demand was disturbed by the change of duties here, since that price was sufficient to stimulate a vastly increased production.

Cost of producing Sugar.

£. 8 per ton remunerating price Sugar in Cuba.

Mr. Barkly's evidence on this point is very much corroborated by a Despatch which has been laid before Your Committee, addressed by Consul-General Crawford, from Havannah, to Viscount Palmerston. Having been instructed to furnish with the least practicable delay information on the following points, with a view to the contemplated inquiry into the distress of the British West India Colonies, namely, first the extent and cost of Slave Cultivation in Cuba, stating as nearly as may be possible the estimated costs of different operations of cultivation and manufacture of Sugar which make up the total cost to the producer; secondly, whether any, and what proportion of any of the Sugar

Consul-General Crawford.

Cuba, Sugar cultivation in.

produced is raised by Free Labour, working for wages or otherwise; thirdly, the cost of the given quantity of work by Slaves or Freemen at Cuba.

He writes, that the extent of the cultivation of Sugar in the island of Cuba is, at this present time, *greater than it ever has been*, and it is increasing in proportion as the cultivation of Coffee is decreased upon the older and long-cultivated portion of the island. He says the expenses of producing Sugar and bringing it to market from Havannah, or any other shipping port, amount altogether to about 8*s.* 9½*d.* per cwt., or 8*s.* sterling per 100 lbs., exclusive of the package. None of the Sugar of this island is produced by Free Labour, working for wages, or otherwise. The cost of clearing and planting 33 English acres of land is from 300*l.* to 360*l.* sterling; the land thus planted generally produces, after 15 months, its first crop, 400 boxes of 400 lbs. (about 71 tons.) The average of the first 10 years' produce would be about 300 boxes (about 54 tons); the second 10 years, after its clearing and first planting, yields only about 200 boxes of four quintals of Sugar; consequently new lands are constantly brought into cultivation, and new estates being formed. If the clearing and planting can be performed by the slaves of the proprietor without the assistance of hired gangs, the cost of raising the Sugars to be brought to market would not amount to more than 7*s.* sterling per 100 lbs., about 7*s.* 8½*d.* per cwt. He states, that the price of a good sound middle-aged slave for Sugar cultivation is from 100*l.* to 160*l.* sterling. Five years ago the best hand would not have been worth more than 80*l.* sterling anywhere on the island. He says the average duration of life amongst the slaves does not exceed 20 years of labour. The present state of the Sugar cultivation in Cuba is prosperous generally, especially to the eastward of Havannah. He says the direct taxes upon Sugar are the leasnos, which amount to about 1*s.* on the 100 lbs. of Sugar.

Increased value of
Slaves in Cuba.

Her Majesty's Com-
missioners at the
Havannah confirm
the statement.

Increase of Slave
Trade in Cuba.

See sample of an
estate of 2,000 acres
and 400 negroes re-
paid in two years.

Consul-General Crawford's statement is confirmed in a remarkable degree by a Despatch of Her Majesty's Commissioners, Messrs. Kennedy and Dalrymple, addressed to Viscount Palmerston, and dated Havannah, March 9th, 1847. These Commissioners state, that if the present price of Sugar continue, there would be such strong inducements for an extended cultivation, and in consequence such a demand for labour as would make the slave-dealers and others to run all risks whatever to supply it; the returns afforded the Planters now are such as to make us astonished that they do not draw even a greater number of persons to engage in its production. To give an idea of its character, we may mention a case, which is notorious, of an estate (one of the newest formed,) this estate consisting of about 60 caballerias, or 2,000 acres, at a thousand dollars per caballero, may be valued at 60,000 dollars; the buildings and machinery may be valued at another like sum, which is extreme; there are about 400 negroes who were bought two years since, who might have been bought one with another at 400 dollars per head; though, as the owner imported them himself from Africa, they perhaps did not cost him one fourth of that sum; estimated value 160,000 dollars of this; land, 60,000 dollars; building, 60,000 dollars; negroes, 160,000 dollars; maintenance of same, and wages of overseers, &c. 20,000 dollars; total, 300,000 dollars. He has this year a crop of Sugar amounting to no less than 10,000 boxes, which at 15 dollars a box, will give him a return of 150,000 dollars; so that in two years he will reimburse more than the whole of the outlay.

On the last day that Your Committee sat, Mr. Greene, on his re-examination, read an account, dated Havannah, 27th February 1848, arrived by the last packet, the "Dee," the latest date of any advices from Havannah in this country; it says, "The merchants here are in the midst of business, *shipping sugar day and night*, and labour is in great demand; the harbour is crowded with shipping; the contrast to our own colonies is great indeed."

Writing again on the 9th of April 1847, Her Majesty's Commissioners at Havannah say, "We have the honour to report that we have not heard of any vessel having come to any port of this island during the last month from the coast of Africa, neither do we know directly of any one having been dispatched intended for slave trade; but we are credibly informed that no fewer than seven have lately sailed for that purpose and that several others are fitting out. The great demand for slaves *in the present enormous profits to be derived by the cultivation of Sugar* will of a certainty induce those parties to encounter every risk

Increase of Slave
Trade in Cuba.
Enormous profits in
Cuba.

risk to obtain the labourers, and accordingly a continued vigilance will be therefore necessary to defeat their practices as heretofore."

Consul-General Crawford, on the 5th of November last, in a Despatch addressed to Viscount Palmerston, writes: "In laying before your Lordship the copy of a translation of a communication which has just been made by his Excellency the Captain-general to the Mixed Court of Justice in relation to the appearance of 106 negroes recently landed from the Coast of Africa, at or near to Trinidad on the south side of the island, I have the honour of reporting that the cargo is said to have consisted of 230 or 240 in all; they were all very young, and many of them were mere children, said to have been brought by a schooner or brigantine, which has disappeared, probably sunk or set fire to. The Governor of Trinidad, Monsieur Heelera da Vila, was implicated in this criminal and detestable act, so that he was to have been superseded, and Brigadier Salas was under orders to relieve him. But Monsieur Heelera de Vila having, as it is supposed, been able to satisfy the Captain-General (O'Donnel) that he had not connived at this infraction of the treaty of the Penal Law, has been continued in the government of the Trinidad district.

Increase of slave trade in Cuba.

Connivance of the Governor of Trinidad.

Mr. Consul Cowper, writing from Pernambuco on the 12th of February 1848, states that the extent of land under sugar cultivation in the province of Pernambuco was upwards of 200 square leagues, and produced during the last harvest, ending 30th October 1847, 61,000 tons of sugar, valued at 768,600 £ besides considerable quantities of rum and molasses. Forty thousand slaves were employed in the production of at least 56,000 tons, valued at 706,000 £, at a cost to the proprietors of 350,000 £, or one-half of the gross produce.

Pernambuco:

Sugar cultivation.

Forty thousand slaves employed.

Mr. Cowper reckons the value of a slave at 450 dollars, and states that free labour is cheaper than slave labour in the colony, the wages of men being 10½d. per diem, without food; but at the same time he states that very few freemen are employed in the province; that the sugar produced by free labour is certainly less than 10 per cent. of the whole production. He says the relation of slave to the proprietary bodies is that of absolute subjection; the law even makes an exception against them as regards the punishment of death. He says nothing can be more rigorous, nothing more irresponsible than the power of the proprietary body over the slave; his social happiness, his very existence lie in his master's hands. Notwithstanding this, both tranquillity and security to property exist; anything to the contrary has no relation to slavery, but to political faction fomented by bad government.

Condition of the slaves at Pernambuco.

There is a general tax of three per cent. on all land under cultivation, and in that light it may be termed as a tax on sugar, but the only direct impost on that production is an export of 10 per cent. on an average weekly valuation, amounting to 4½d. on each case of 50 to 60 arobas, which is 32l. English, and 1d. upon every box of 15 to 20 ditto; ½d. per barrel of seven to eight ditto, and ¼d. upon a bag of five arobas.

Mr. Barkly gives his reasons, to which Your Committee would beg leave to call your attention, for ascribing the ruinous fall in the price of sugar at the present time to other causes than those of the monetary crisis.

"10822. You are not induced by Lord Grey's despatch of the 22d of December 1847 to ascribe the fall in the price of sugar to the same causes that have reduced the prices of other things?—I have already ascribed part of the decline to other causes. I think more than half of the decline certainly was attributable to the excessive importation of foreign sugar last year. With respect to the fall upon two other articles which has been insisted upon, I have seen a speech of Sir Charles Wood, in which I see he insists, as well as Lord Grey, upon the fall in the prices of other articles which he adduces as being equal to the fall in sugar. That struck me as not quite a candid line of argument, because neither the Chancellor of the Exchequer nor Lord Grey can imagine that it was produced by the same famine and causes which produced the decline in sugar, and if not it does not bear upon the question at all. Neither of them supposes that sugar will recover its price; they must be aware that one of the objects of the admission of slave sugar was to reduce the price. I think Sir Charles Wood mentioned sago, rice, and indigo; the two first, as every one will see, I think, formed part of the food question. There was a scarcity and a high price of corn, and an over-importation of rice, and such an insignificant article as sago; afterwards we had a lower price of corn, and the price of those articles fell very rapidly. Then, with respect to indigo, at first

Mr. Barkly's reasons for not ascribing the depreciation of British plantation sugar in the English market to the monetary crisis.

sight that does not appear so easy to understand ; but as Lord Grey has again insisted upon that fall in the price of indigo, I have been rather led to look into the circumstances of the case, and I find that last year the importation of indigo was more than in previous years ; there was an increase, I think, of 2,000 or 3,000 cwt. over the importation of previous years.

“ 10823. On an importation of about 71,000 cwt. ?—Yes, there was an increase of 2,849 cwt. on an importation of 71,000 cwt., and at the same time there were causes in operation which reduced the consumption of indigo, especially the falling-off in our cotton manufacture. Owing to the general distress of the country, and the high price of cotton, the consumption of cotton last year was very much less, and therefore the consumption of indigo for dyeing cotton would fall off ; cotton fell off from 30,000 bags a week to 22,000 bags per week last year ; and there is also this remarkable fact in connexion with it, that that fall is nearly made up at the present time, and the price is expected to be quite as high as it was at the next quarterly sale.

“ 10824. The price of indigo, it appears, only fell five per cent., including the losses on both sides of the water ?—There was some evidence to that effect, I believe, given by a gentleman who understood the question, Mr. Alexander. It is expected that at the next quarterly sale the price will be as high again as it was previous to the reduction ; that certainly is not the case with sugar.

“ 10825. That is in the face of an increased supply and a reduced demand ?—Yes.

“ 10826. Whereas the case of sugar is just the converse of that ?—Yes ; the supply was not quite equal to the demand.

“ 10827. Which demand has been very much increased in the year 1847 ?—Yes.

“ 10828. That is to say, the supply of British sugar has not been equal to the demand ; but the market has been inundated by a supply of foreign sugar, under the Bill of 1846 ?—I think so, certainly ; under that Bill, and also under the operation of other causes which I fear will still continue. One of the effects of that Bill was to send a large part of the sugar trade to this country. Last year, unfortunately, from the state of money matters on the Continent, there were not the same facilities for getting rid of that extra supply ; there was no credit, and no means of buying sugar for exportation, therefore it had a worse effect than it otherwise would have had upon the prices here. I am afraid that will be repeated this year, in consequence of the disturbances which have recently occurred in Europe. Want of confidence will induce the planters of Cuba to send almost all their sugar here ; both those which are bought by agents in Europe, and those shipped by planters, will almost all come here ; and there will be no vent for them, on account of the decline of credit on the continent of Europe ; and we shall be again inundated by an immense supply of sugar.

“ 10829. Is not there a still more self-evident proof that it is the Act of 1846 which has reduced the price of British colonial sugar, in the circumstance that foreign sugar has maintained its price while British sugar has fallen 12 *l.* a ton ?—Yes ; I think that is quite a conclusive argument upon the subject, because the price of foreign sugar, before the alteration in the duties by the Bill in 1846 was known, was almost the same as it is now, while our prices have been reduced about 12 *l.* a ton. I think it is only fair that every party should admit that the fall in price has been induced by the Act of 1846, and that it was really intended that the price should be so reduced.”

Mr. Barkly also observes, in answer to Lord Grey's despatch of December 1847, in which he sets forth that Parliament has gone far in doing all that can be done, by well-considered measures, to mitigate the distress of the colony ; and that with this view Parliament has already relieved the West Indian Planter and Merchants of a charge which was set forth by them to be equivalent to 5*s.* a cwt. on the production of Sugar, by removing the restrictions on the colonial trade in the United States. He does not apprehend, that by free trade in lumber and provisions, he has derived a benefit in cheapening the supplies equal to 5*s.* a cwt. or to anything like it. And he gives a conclusive reason for so saying, inasmuch as his supplies, of every description, do not amount to more than 4*s.* 4*d.* a cwt., and that they are not all American supplies ; they include coals, repairs of machinery, and manufactures of all sorts, mostly sent from England. He is asked if previous to Emancipation the

Fallacy of ever imagining 5*s.* per cwt. could be saved by free trade in lumber and provisions.

the British colonies were not able to grow Sugar as cheap as the slave colonies; he answers, that he thinks he has shown that by the evidence he gave to a Committee which sat in 1842. On his estate Sugar was grown at the rate of 6*s.* a cwt. up to the end of the apprenticeship; and in his opinion, taking the average of foreign countries, they cannot produce Sugars cheaper than that now. Speaking of the soil and climate of the colonies with which he is acquainted (namely, British Guiana and Trinidad), he says, he thinks they are more favourable for growing Sugar than any other countries in the world. He does not think that any country in the world has the same advantages that British Guiana has in producing Sugar cheaply, from the level nature of the country, the universal facility of communication by water, the great average fertility of the soil, also of the climate. They have two rainy seasons in Guiana, which is a great advantage; it is the want of that, which, he imagines, raises the cost of production so much in India. Trinidad has more fertile soil in parts than is to be found in any part of the world. He should think the southerly part of Trinidad is the finest country in the world for Sugar cultivation.

The local advantages of British Guiana and Trinidad for producing Sugar.

They have a depth of 18 feet of alluvial and decayed vegetable matter, but the average fertility of Trinidad is not greater than that of Guiana.

He is asked if, as far as his observation goes, the British Planters have not readily adopted all improvements in machinery and agricultural implements that suggest themselves. He answers, "I think they have been doing so for years past. They have seen that their only chance of safety under the competition to which they have been greatly exposed, first with India, then with free-labour countries, then slave colonies, consisted in improving the process of manufactures, diminishing the quantity of manual labour required in producing Sugar."

Great exertions of the British planters for years past to improve by machinery, agricultural implements, &c.

He says he has always seen even too great a disposition in the managers of estates to go to expense in introducing improvements of that kind before they have been fairly tested. I think the quantity of machinery, and the number of patents and inventions tried in the West Indies, is quite extraordinary. He tells the Committee that his plant is equal to a far larger production than he is able to find labour to meet it. That it was producing between 600 and 700 hogsheads up to the period of Emancipation, and therefore it would take off double the crop it is doing at present. He is asked if, as far as his observation goes, the estates of residents in England are worse cultivated, and have less energy, less capital applied to them, than the estates of those who are resident. He answers, "that he thinks, certainly they are not; that the estates of absentees are better cultivated, because, generally speaking, they are possessed of more capital; and the great question during the last few years, has been the expenditure of capital. The estates have not supported themselves, and therefore the resident proprietors have not been in a position to keep up the cultivation so high as many absentees. He does not think absenteeism is one of the causes that can be brought forward for the distress of the West Indies."

Absenteeism not one of the causes of distress of the British West Indies.

SLAVE-GROWN SUGAR IN PORTO RICO.

Your Committee submit an extract from a statement of Mr. Overmann, a planter, resident in Porto Rico, as to the growth of sugar in that island, communicated by the Colonial Office:—

"The island of Porto Rico has about 400,000 inhabitants, of which 45,000 are slaves. There are 400 sugar estates worked, I should say by about 20,000 negroes, and they make 100,000 hhds. of sugar, which is yet manufactured in the most common way by cattle mills, and I do not think there are more than 20 steam-mills in the island.

"They have likewise only few wind, and still less water mills. The larger estates can make sugar at about 60 to 75 cts. per 100 lbs. (2*s.* 9*d.* to 3*s.* 7*d.* a cwt.) taking, of course, the amount for the molasses and rum (if they make

any) against part of the expenses ; but smaller estates, with perhaps not sufficient lands, or badly conducted, cannot do it at less than 1 ½ to 2 dollars (6 s. 10 ½ d. to 9 s. 3 ½ d. per cwt.), as there are many expenses, which weigh heavier on smaller estates ; but, of course, much depends on the situation of the estate and the fertility of the soil, and the manner in which it is taken care of, the canes requiring to be kept very clean of weeds and grass.

“ An estate of 360 acres of canes will generally have about 300 acres to be cut, and they will yield—

	Dollars.	Dollars.	Sterling.
“ 1,000,000 lbs. sugar at 3 dollars (14 s. 2 d. per cwt.)	- -	30,000	£. 6,250 -
80,000 gallons molasses, 12 cts. (6 d.) - -	- -	9,000	1,875 -
Gross Crop - - -	- -	39,000	8,025 -
The expenses would be about the following—			
Salary for manager - - - - -	1,000		
2 overseers - - - - -	1,000		
1,000 hhds., three dollars - - - -	3,000		
Maintenance of 120 negroes (slaves) - - -	7,000		
Repairing of buildings - - - - -	1,000		
Doctor's fee - - - - -	300		
Cane-cutting - - - - -	800		
Unforeseen expenses - - - - -	500		
		14,500	3,020 16
Would leave - - - - - \$		25,000	£. 5,208 6

Slave population decreasing.
Men to women, three to one.

Vital importance of taking off the crop at the proper time.

which would give a very good interest on the money invested. The slave population is decreasing in Porto Rico about one to one and a half a year, owing to the great scarcity of women ; the proportion of men to women is about three to one. Another thing which I have omitted to observe is, that it depends very much when the canes ought to be cut, as if they are cut one month too soon or one month too late they will yield from 20 to 25 % less sugar. This is a very essential point ; a new manager on an estate, even if he is perhaps a man of better knowledge than the former one, will very likely, by taking off the first crop, make a difference of 12 to 15 % in the quantity of sugar the other would have produced, to the disadvantage of the owner. I have seen cane fields in wet lands which were not cut in time, and which were only cut after the rains commenced, and they only produced one half of that which they would have given a month sooner, as the juice of the cane became very watery, and would, in some instances, not even granulate. As on a large estate all canes cannot be cut when they ought to be, very much is lost in this way by the owner ; but that is a thing that cannot be helped. It has been observed in Porto Rico that those canes cut from February till May yield about 15 to 20 % more than those cut in January and June or later. It is, therefore, a great advantage if an estate can take off the crop in the months mentioned.”

DEMERARA.

Demerara:
Thos. Naghten, esq.

Thomas Naghten, esq., proprietor in Demerara, and a West India merchant, who, and his father before him, had been in possession of their estates for 30 years, put in this tabular statement of the results of the cultivation of their three estates in the colony of British Guiana, during slavery, apprenticeship, and freedom, exclusive of interest in capital :—

STATEMENT of the Results of the CULTIVATION of Three Sugar Estates, situated in the Colony of *British Guiana*, during SLAVERY, APPRENTICESHIP, and FREEDOM (exclusive of Interest on Capital).

SLAVERY.

	Hhds. of Sugar.	Net Weight of Sugar.	Total Expenses.	Gross Amount Received for Crop.	Proceeds of Sugar.	Other Proceeds, including Rum and Molasses.	Cost of Producing Sugar.	Net Revenue.
		<i>Cwt. qrs. lbs.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>
PLANTATION GOLDEN FLEECE:								
1825 - - -	450	6,001 0 20	4,000 15 -	12,108 12 6	7,843 10 10	4,264 12 8	- - -	7,408 17 6
1826 - - -	450	6,102 3 7	4,063 17 8	10,107 16 5	6,536 7 4	3,571 9 1	About 4 s. per cwt.	5,443 18 9
1827 - - -	520	7,196 0 6	5,111 15 -	13,133 3 4	9,314 18 9	3,818 4 7		8,021 8 4
1828 - - -	600	8,126 2 25	5,478 17 4	11,231 12 1	8,414 11 11	2,817 - 2		5,752 14 9
	2,020	27,516 3 2	19,954 5 -	46,581 4 4	32,109 17 10	14,471 6 0		20,626 19 4
PLANTATION CANEFIELDS:								
1825 - - -	570	8,581 1 15	6,117 6 11	14,758 2 7	11,911 6 5	2,846 10 2	About 5 s. 11 d. per cwt.	8,640 15 8
1826 - - -	550	8,157 0 4	5,934 9 6	12,641 5 -	9,725 6 10	2,915 18 2		6,708 15 6
1827 - - -	550	8,270 3 23	4,185 2 10	14,930 11 10	11,615 19 6	3,314 12 4		10,745 9 -
1828 - - -	532	7,935 0 4	5,189 11 10	12,637 15 4	9,993 1 10	2,644 13 6		7,448 3 6
	2,202	32,044 1 18	21,426 11 1	54,907 14 9	43,245 14 7	11,722 - 2		33,541 3 8
PLANTATION COLUMBIA:								
1825 - - -	435	5,732 3 9	3,338 12 -	9,437 5 8	7,910 15 5	1,526 10 3	About 8 s. 2 d. per cwt.	6,098 13 8
1826 - - -	450	5,872 1 14	4,749 5 -	8,342 3 5	6,722 19 6	1,619 3 11		3,592 18 5
1827 - - -	500	6,772 3 20	4,079 4 10	11,228 16 -	9,445 7 4	1,783 8 8		7,149 11 2
1828 - - -	447	6,232 1 8	4,468 4 10	9,551 7 10	7,872 19 4	1,678 8 6		5,083 3 -
	1,832	24,610 1 23	16,635 6 8	38,550 12 11	31,952 1 7	6,607 11 4		21,924 6 3
TOTAL Result of the Three Estates for Four Years (Slavery)	6,054	85,071 2 15	58,016 2 9	140,108 12 -	107,307 14 -	32,800 18 -	25,215 4 9	82,002 9 3
AVERAGE Annual Result of the Three Estates - - -	1,514	21,267 3 18	14,504 - 8	35,027 3 -	26,826 18 6	8,200 4 0	6,303 16 2 about 6 s. p' cwt.	20,523 2 4

APPRENTICESHIP.

	Hhds. of Sugar.	Net Weight of Sugar.	Total Expenses.	Gross Amount Received for Crop.	Proceeds of Sugar.	Other Proceeds, including Rum and Molasses.	Cost of Producing Sugar.	Net Revenue.
		<i>Cwt. qrs. lbs.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>
PLANTATION GOLDEN FLEECE:								
1835 - - -	610	8,510 1 4	5,895 17 7	16,821 19 10	12,086 18 5	4,735 1 5	About 6 s. 5 d. per cwt.	10,927 2 3
1836 - - -	600	8,328 2 27	8,225 8 7	17,364 - 6	12,203 8 9	5,160 11 9		9,138 11 11
1837 - - -	600	8,210 1 3	6,579 17 8	15,736 8 10	11,064 - 2	4,672 8 8		9,156 11 2
1838 - - -	436	5,075 3 6	7,442 11 8	11,372 - 3	7,454 19 9	3,917 - 6		3,929 8 7
	2,246	30,134 0 12	28,142 15 6	61,294 0 5	42,809 7 1	18,485 2 4		33,151 13 11
PLANTATION CANEFIELDS:								
1835 - - -	389	5,780 3 27	5,507 15 5	13,038 3 8	8,845 19 10	4,192 3 10	About 7 s. 11 d. per cwt.	7,530 8 3
1836 - - -	343	5,180 0 0	5,041 - 6	11,349 1 2	7,811 4 11	3,537 16 3		6,308 - 8
1837 - - -	403	6,032 2 21	5,332 7 4	12,755 7 8	9,126 15 8	3,028 12 -		7,423 - 4
1838 - - -	246	3,575 2 1	6,752 9 6	8,308 4 11	5,184 2 -	3,124 2 11		1,555 15 6
	1,381	20,575 0 21	22,633 12 8	45,450 17 5	30,968 2 5	14,482 15 -		22,817 4 9
PLANTATION COLUMBIA:								
1835 - - -	420	5,898 0 2	5,085 11 7	11,259 1 0	8,518 8 3	2,740 13 3	About 13 s. 8 d. per cwt. Loss - -	6,173 9 15
1836 - - -	400	5,770 1 20	6,969 3 4	10,142 17 -	8,017 5 6	2,125 11 6		3,173 13 8
1837 - - -	400	5,679 1 5	5,354 10 11	10,564 17 3	7,800 4 3	2,755 13 -		5,210 6 4
1838 - - -	221	3,023 0 7	5,002 - 2	5,861 16 6	4,014 12 1	1,847 4 5		14,557 9 11 130 3 8
	1,441	20,263 3 6	23,401 6 -	37,828 12 3	28,359 10 1	9,409 2 2		14,427 6 3
TOTAL Result of the Three Estates for Four Years (Apprentice- ship)	5,068	71,078 0 11	74,177 14 2	144,573 10 1	102,136 19 7	42,430 10 6	31,740 14 8	70,396 4 11
AVERAGE Annual Result of the Three Estates - - -	1,267	17,768 1 3	18,544 8 6	36,143 9 9	25,534 4 11	10,600 4 10	7,935 3 8 about 8 s. 9 d. per cwt.	17,599 1 3

FREEDOM.

Hogheads of Sugar.	Net Weight of Sugar.	Total Expenses.	Gross Amount Received for Crop.	Proceeds of Sugar.	Other Proceeds, including Rum and Molasses.	Cost of Producing Sugar.	Net Gain.	Net Loss.
PLANTATION GOLDEN FLEECE:								
1840	4,920 0 4	7,549 11 4	13,292 12 6	9,934 11 1	3,358 1 5	-	5,743 1 2	£. s. d. - 407 5 3
1841	4,081 0 3	8,238 17 10	7,831 12 7	5,771 15 9	2,059 16 10	-	-	-
1842	4,378 1 28	6,204 12 8	6,913 12 6	5,378 7 8	1,535 4 10	-	617 19 10	-
1843	4,372 1 14	5,971 10 4	7,140 3 6	5,947 - 2	1,193 3 4	24s. 2d. per cwt.	1,108 13 2	37 14 4
1844	4,178 3 4	6,224 14 6	6,187 - 2	4,684 10 8	1,492 5 6	-	547 0 8	983 6 6
1845	3,799 0 4	6,805 5 10	7,353 15 6	5,486 10 -	1,867 5 6	-	-	-
1846	1,963 1 20	5,720 6 6	4,737 -	2,831 12 2	1,905 7 10	-	-	-
1,914	27,505 0 19	46,804 10 -	53,455 16 9	40,044 7 6	13,411 9 3	33,363 9 9	8,077 3 10	1,428 6 1
PLANTATION CANEFIELDS:								
1840	3,049 3 23	6,782 4 6	9,092 16 4	6,531 11 10	2,561 4 6	-	2,310 11 10	3,350 10 5
1841	1,158 3 15	5,639 15 2	2,310 4 9	1,881 14 7	483 10 2	-	-	-
1842	1,781 2 14	3,023 17 4	3,202 6 6	2,495 9 10	706 16 8	-	179 9 2	-
1843	1,612 3 16	2,827 11 10	3,104 19 4	2,447 12 6	657 6 10	About	277 7 6	-
1844	1,752 3 2	2,637 8 -	3,473 9 -	2,662 10 6	815 18 6	37s. 11d. per cwt.	821 1 -	975 1 10
1845	601 3 22	2,141 6 2	1,106 4 4	931 8 -	234 16 4	-	-	1,485 16 8
1846	568 0 11	2,678 17 6	1,243 - 10	837 - 8	406 - 8	-	-	-
711	10,526 0 19	25,781 - 6	23,503 1 1	17,787 7 11	5,810 13 2	19,970 7 4	3,688 9 6	5,770 8 11
PLANTATION COLUMBIA:								
1840	2,844 2 23	5,653 14 10	4,585 14 9	3,433 9 4	1,102 5 1	-	-	1,118 - 1
1841	2,722 0 1	6,124 11 4	7,388 14 4	5,301 7 10	1,987 6 6	-	1,264 3 -	1,074 3 10
1842	2,807 0 14	5,533 12 -	4,459 8 2	3,724 7 2	735 1 - 6	About	-	374 - 8
1843	2,577 1 20	4,616 - 6	4,241 19 10	3,523 19 4	718 -	32s. 4d. per cwt.	-	468 19 2
1844	3,128 1 4	5,182 19 4	4,714 - 2	3,485 4 -	888 16 2	-	-	1,002 - 2
1845	2,553 3 22	5,195 6 6	4,193 6 4	3,304 3 2	799 3 2	-	-	301 18 8
1846	2,538 3 4	4,967 14 6	4,666 15 10	3,501 7 2	1,165 8 8	-	-	-
1,248	18,472 1 4	37,273 19 -	34,190 19 5	29,853 18 4	7,346 1 1	29,927 17 11	1,264 3 -	4,380 2 7
3,873	56,563 2 14	109,859 18 6	111,253 17 3	84,685 13 9	26,569 3 6	83,291 15 -	12,929 16 4	11,537 17 7
Total Result of the Three Estates for Seven Years (Freedom)								
5,534	8,084 3 6	15,694 5 6	15,893 8 2	12,097 19 1	3,795 9 1	11,898 16 5	198 16 11	-
Average Annual Result of the Three Estates								
At 29s. 5d. per cwt.								

AVERAGE REVENUE OF THREE ESTATES :						£.	s.	d.
	£.	s.	d.	Average Cost of producing Sugar	-	6	-	6
During 4 Years "Slavery"	-	-	20,523 2 4 per Annum.	Ditto	-	-	-	8 9
" " "Apprenticeship"	-	-	17,449 1 3	"	-	-	-	8 9
" " "Freedom"	-	-	198 16 11	"	-	-	-	1 9 5

Mr. Naghten stated to the Committee that his father gave 105,000*l.* for the Plantation Cane Fields Estate.

Mr. Naghten was asked whether the position of the slave and his master had not been entirely reversed by the emancipation of the former, and the labourer now become the master of the planter? He answers, "In a tropical climate like that of British Guiana, he is entirely our master." He is then asked the following questions, to which he gives his answers, upon the possibility of improvement in the economy of labour in British Guiana by the introduction of drainage, with ploughs and cattle instead of manual labour: "I am one of those parties who do not think that we can introduce the plough to any extent in Demerara; we are obliged to intersect the land with small drains, and the cattle tread them in, and tumble down; unless we had tile drainage we could not use the plough, which I do not think to be practicable at the present moment."

Labourers in a tropical climate entirely the master of the planter.

Difficulty of using the plough in Demerara.

"8827. Does not the rain fall in enormous quantities in that country at times, sometimes something like six, or eight, or ten inches in a month?—It is enormous; I believe as much as in any part of the world; we are beneath the level of the sea, therefore we have no fall to take off the rain except at half-tide, and if we had under-drainage it would require machinery to take it off."

He is afterwards asked if he would go on with the cultivation of his estate if he could obtain an average long price of 42*s.* a cwt., equal at the present duty to 28*s.*? He answers, "I should go on with my estates if I got 42*s.* a cwt., if I could hope for more labour. It would not answer my purpose, however, to go and lay out more capital to carry it on." With respect to the price of labour, he says, "During apprenticeship we had what was called a 7½ hours' task, but it was what the labourers did in four hours; for that we have given them, varying at different periods, from 1*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.* 1*d.* In cane-cutting a man will, if he chooses, make a dollar a day, that is 4*s.* 2*d.*" He is asked to what extent wages have been reduced now, and his answer is, "We have only proposed to reduce them; we have not effected it. By the last accounts, 16 Sugar estates with which we are connected were at a stand still; on my own estates we had not done any work for six weeks when the last mail left."

Cultivation of sugar could proceed with a short price of 28*s.* per cwt.

Price of wages.

"8832. Then, in fact, the cultivation is abandoned?—It is temporarily abandoned."

Cultivation temporarily abandoned already.

"8833. Will there be no crop next year?—I hope I shall take no crop off unless the negro takes lower wages; it will be better for me to abandon my estate than to go on paying at the rate I have been paying; in fact, I have instructed my attorney to give no more wages at the previous rates."

He is asked what reduction it is that he has pressed upon his agent. He says, "A reduction of about 30 per cent. I have the statement of an estate for which I am the merchant: it is one of the finest in British Guiana, and it has comparatively plenty of labour. The estates vary very much in British Guiana. This is an estate situate upon the east coast of Demerara, and is one of the finest estates in British Guiana; it has a good soil, and has always enjoyed a plentiful command of capital. The crop last year was 690 hogsheads of sugar and 500 puncheons of rum, which at the present price would be about 14,000*l.*; the expenses of the past year were 13,330*l.* This I believe to be as fine an estate as there is in British Guiana. It shows that under present circumstances it just makes its way."

"8835. Can that estate continue to be cultivated?—Unless the negro comes down in his demands and takes a lower rate of wages, I suppose it will not."

"8836. What ought that estate to have returned at the prices of the last few years?—If it had had the prices of last year there would have been a clear revenue of upwards of 14,000*l.* But for the Act of 1846, the prices continuing what they were, it would have yielded that."

He is then asked, and gives answers to the following questions:—

"8843. What would you pay per head for Africans if they were apprenticed to you for five years; would you be glad, if they were apprenticed to you for five years, to be at the expense of 10*l.* a head for men and women?—I should be very happy to pay the expense of 10*l.* a head, if I had the certainty that I could have their continuous labour for five years."

Conditions on which he would be glad to embark in an importation of Africans.

"8844. Would you be willing to import as many women as men at the rate of 10*l.* a head?—Yes; I do not object to women."

"8845. The fact is that the women work as well as the men, do not they?—They do sometimes; they cut canes better; they cut them closer."

"8846. Do you know Messrs. Booker, Brothers, & Co. ?—They are merchants in Demerara.

"8847. You have before you a letter addressed by them to Messrs. Moss ?—Yes.

"8848. Will you read it ?—'Gentlemen: As the 'Spencer' starts to-morrow, we enclose a bill lading of your shipment by her; it would have been much more, but a large mud bank having formed in front of Anna Regina, the boat could only bring up a small load. We have been informed to-day that every labourer on the estate had struck, and left the copper wall full of liquor; this is the case with every estate almost in the country, and a most deplorable one it is.' That is just the same character as my letters are by the last mail.

"8849. That is tantamount to the ruin of the colony ?—If it continues.

"8850. If the liquor is kept in the copper wall 24 hours, or, at all events, for 48 hours, it is spoilt, is not it ?—It would all sour.

"8851. And that is one of the powers which the negro labourer has over his master, that he knows perfectly well that the master cannot hold out against him, because if he is making sugar, to leave the liquor 48 hours will ruin the whole crop ?—Yes; but it is not an every-day circumstance their leaving the liquor on the copper wall; that is an extreme circumstance. I frequently get out a gang to cut canes; I get the canes to the mill-door, and then I cannot get labourers to grind them, and the canes will rot at the mill-door. Those are the disadvantages under which we work now. We are quite at their mercy. I cannot weed my canes when they should be weeded; I cannot cut them when they ought to be cut, and I cannot plant when I ought to plant. In most parts of the colony we are obliged to take two or three days to cut the canes, and sometimes it happens, after you have done all that, they will rot at the mill-door."

He is asked afterwards if the taxation of Demerara is not very heavy, and if the colonial expenditure has not very much increased? To which he answers, that the colonial expenditure has very much increased. He thinks the increase has been about a million of dollars, as far as his recollection goes since 1825, and that that increase of a million of dollars was from about 25,000*l.* He is then asked if the profits of the planters have not simultaneously fallen off about 75 per cent.? To which he answers, "I have fallen off from an income of 20,000*l.* to nothing." He is then asked if he does not think that if all the officers of Government, beginning at the head, were to be reduced at the rate of about 30 per cent. in their salaries, that would have some effect in the way of example upon the labourers, making them more willing to submit to reduction? He answers, "I think it would have a good moral effect." Again he says, "It would have a good moral effect upon the negro; it would convince him that it was not the proprietor that was attempting to coerce him." A most ominous corroboration is given of the solidity of this opinion of Mr. Naghten's in one of the last Despatches from Governor Light to Earl Grey; it is dated Government House, Demerara, 14th of February 1848, in which the Governor says, "In paragraph 5, allusion is made to the cessation from labour by the Creoles. I am sorry to say that, although tranquil, this cessation from labour continues. Paragraph 6 alludes to the fires. There were six in the month of January, the last on the 31st; happily none have been reported in this month. Paragraph 7 alludes to the temper of the Creoles being soured. I am of opinion THAT A VERY LARGE PROPORTION OF THE CREOLES HAVE A DIFFERENT FEELING TOWARDS THE PLANTERS AND GOVERNMENT TO THAT WHICH THEY HAD FOUR OR FIVE YEARS AGO, BUT THIS HAS ARISEN FROM OTHER CAUSES THAN THAT OF LOW-PRICED LABOUR. IT IS NOT AT ALL UNCOMMON FOR REMARKS, NOT OF THE CIVILEST KIND, BEING MADE BY GROUPS OF CREOLES ON MEETING CARRIAGES AND HORSES OF OFFICIAL MEN, TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY, THE PEOPLE, WERE TAXED TO PAY SUCH LUXURIES." Enclosed in that same Despatch came a Petition of the Proprietary Body, and others dependent on the successful cultivation of the Plantations in British Guiana. They too say in that Petition,

"It is awful to contemplate the state of this fine colony at this eventful crisis; the temper of the labourers is soured, and they feel acutely the competition to which the produce of their labour has been exposed with that of slaves. But your petitioners have no means of shielding them from this disadvantage, although

Universal strike among the labourers.

Negro knows his master cannot hold out against him.

Enormous increase of colonial expenditure *pari passu* with a corresponding decrease in planters' incomes.

Moral effect upon the negro of a reduction of official salaries.

Governor Light.

Temper of the Creoles "soured."

Petition of the proprietary. Awful state of the colony.

although willing to share with them even more than their fair portion of the evils it has entailed, until, by respectful representations, they may be palliated or entirely removed, through the wisdom of the British Parliament. But in the attempt to secure the temporary co-operation and submission to patient endurance of the labouring population, and to uphold the cultivation of the colony, your petitioners have entirely failed; *the plantations are now, during the present rainy weather, fast running to waste, and this at a time when labour is most required to keep the cane cultivation free of grass, for the purpose of procuring a return from the soil.*

“Your petitioners are paralysed at this state of things, unparalleled in the annals of the colony. They see their distresses and difficulties daily augmenting, and without the power, by any exertions of their own (of the want of which they have often been unjustly accused by parties ignorant of the nature of their trials) to help themselves; for if your petitioners cease to cultivate their estates, they become valueless and run to waste. On the other hand, if they continue to cultivate them under present circumstances, they must do so with the certainty of loss; a fact which is known to capitalists, who consequently have effectually put it beyond the power of parties to carry into practice; so that whilst the struggle to produce a better state of things is maintained, the plantations are sinking into decay.

“Your petitioners feel constrained to state to Your Honourable House, that if relief be not speedily extended, besides a ruined proprietary body there will be a discontented labouring population pervading the once flourishing and productive province of British Guiana; its civil and religious institutions must disappear as the inevitable consequence, and the emancipated race relapse into a state of barbarism, which, in the course of time, may assume a character of antagonism and rapine.”

These Petitioners commence their Petition with the expression of the following sentiments:—

“Respectfully sheweth,

“That only a very short time has elapsed since your petitioners and others of their fellow colonists addressed your Honourable House by petition, setting forth the distress which pressed so heavily upon them, and threatened to involve them and the colony at large in ruin, unless their prayer for remedial measures was promptly granted by the British Parliament.

“That since the said petition was forwarded for presentation to your Honourable House the state of the colony has become highly alarming, and your petitioners emphatically declare portends, at no distant period, a dissolution of the bonds by which society is held together.

“That your petitioners felt, that whilst they had in their petition claimed the support of Parliament to alleviate their sufferings, it was nevertheless incumbent on themselves to endeavour, by an equitable mode of proceeding towards the agricultural peasantry, still further to lessen the cost of production, in order to palliate in some measure the disadvantage of their position in having to compete, for the present, with the staple products of slave labour.

“*That with this object in view, your petitioners commenced with diminishing the salaries of the staff of the plantations, which, being composed of persons sensible of the distressed condition of their employers, willingly acquiesced in the measure as one of paramount necessity; and, following up this course of proceeding, proposed to the agricultural population a reduced scale of wages for the tasks hitherto performed, or a continuation of the old rates of remuneration for an increased quantity of work, based upon the tariff sanctioned by the late governor, Sir J. C. Smith, for seven hours and a half per day.*

That although your petitioners have, at a vast expense, brought into use every practicable auxiliary power to manual labour which mechanical invention or science could suggest, short of thorough drainage and the use of the plough (the latter being altogether dependent in this colony upon the costly introduction of the former), and notwithstanding several of the manufacturing operations are rendered less laborious by the use of some of those mechanical powers to the persons employed about the Sugar works, *and also, notwithstanding the wages offered by your petitioners are still beyond what the present prices of sugar and other staple products in the home markets warrant, your petitioners regret to say that their offers have been met by the labourers with a decided refusal, and at this moment an almost total cessation from field labour has*

taken place. The few estates which have any field or manufacturing operations going on, procure it only *from immigrant Portuguese and Coolies, together with a few of the staff of the properties*; and even they are performing it irregularly, under fear of encountering the hostility of the creole population, who are systematically practising a course of intimidation.

"That since the Christmas just passed several fires have taken place of megass logies, whereby those costly and indispensable buildings have, with their large stocks of fuel for manufacturing the product of the estates, been entirely consumed; and from the fact of no manufacturing operations being carrying on at the time on any of the estates where the fires have occurred, and also the remarkable circumstance of their taking place at such a crisis as the present, and in such unparalleled rapid succession, as well as from other circumstances elicited through magisterial investigation, there is little doubt of their being the work of incendiarism."

Governor Light,
18 February 1848.

The last Despatch from Governor Light to Earl Grey, dated the 18th February, states,

"I am sorry to say there is a continuance of cessation from labour by the great majority; whatever work is done, is by the immigrants.

Offers made to labourers to take off the standing crops at half produce rejected.

"In some parts of the country I have understood that offers have been made to the labourers for taking off the standing crops at half produce, but without effect; though in Leguan, River Essequibo, several estates have been given over to the negroes on a trial of the Metairie system. Many estates are in arrear of wages, but the labourers do not apply for redress to the stipendiary magistrates, and therefore these are happily spared from adding to the embarrassments of the planters by summary processes.

"The creoles are everywhere peaceable, which, after the repetition of incendiarism of last month, I did not expect."

On the 18th of January preceding, Governor Light had enclosed to Earl Grey a Memorial of certain Inhabitants of British Guiana, addressed to himself, and to the Court of Policy of British Guiana, in which these memorable paragraphs appear:—

Memorial of inhabitants, addressed to the Court of Policy.

"The ruinous effects and result of this unequal competition are manifested in the aggravated distress which has already overtaken the proprietary body, its consequent action on the mercantile interests, and which must now speedily extend to and overwhelm every other class of the inhabitants. *It is a mournful truth that notwithstanding the colony has been blessed with an abundant crop for the past year, the position of British Guiana is now absolutely worse than it was at the close of 1846, even though the crop of that year was seriously affected by the drought of the year preceding.*

Colony in a more disastrous condition than whilst suffering from the dispensation of Divine Providence.

"That a vast amount of expenditure has been incurred to renovate the cultivation and produce the crop of the year just passed; and even with the increased returns from the soil, the embarrassments of the proprietary body have been augmented through the ruinous depreciation of their produce, *thus leaving them and the colony at large in a more disastrous condition than whilst suffering from the dispensation of Divine Providence.*"

Again, on the same day, Governor Light addresses a Despatch, marked "Private," of which these are the Extracts given:—

"RETURN of PLANTATIONS on which FIRES have occurred since the 31st December 1847.

Name of Plantation.	District.	County.	Date of Fire.	Property Destroyed.	Opinion of Stipendiary Magistrate of the District.
Palmyra -	(F.)	Essequibo -	1 January	Two megass logies -	- - The Act of an incendiary, almost certain; the police on the traces of a fugitive negro.
Montrose -	(B.)	Demerara -	15 - -	- - An entire range of megass logies.	- - <i>Idem.</i> —In the middle of the day, in three different places at once.
Lusignan -	(B.)	Demerara -	16 - -	- - Overseer's dwelling-house.	- - <i>Idem.</i> —At night found on fire at different parts, to the great danger of the lives of the inmates, who lost everything; and one most seriously hurt in escape in his shirt.

"A most rigid inquiry is now in progress.

H. L."

In

In the same Despatch Governor Light incloses a copy of his Proclamation, in the preamble of which will be found these words: "*And whereas, from the evidence already obtained, there is every reason to believe that these occurrences are not accidental, but the result of wilful and deliberate design, and connected with some plan or combination for the general destruction of plantation property throughout the colony.*" In the same Proclamation this appeal is made to the negro peasantry: "HOW CAN YOU EXPECT THE SAME RATE OF WAGES AS USUAL FOR MANUFACTURING A HOGSHEAD OF SUGAR, WHEN THAT WHICH LATELY SOLD FOR 100 DOLLARS" (20*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*) "WILL NOT NOW BRING 50?" (10*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*)

Governor Light's appeal to the labourers.

Hogshead of sugar lately sold for 100 dollars will not now bring 50.

Mr. Barkly is corroborated in a remarkable manner upon this point by Dr. Ranken, the Agent of the Colony, deputed by the colony of Demerara to represent the grievances of that colony to Your Committee.

Dr. Ranken.

Dr. Ranken, in answer to a question, produced to the Committee a Paper showing the number of mortgages executed in the colony on estates, from the year 1838 to 1847, inclusive. Of these 98 appeared to be mortgaged by resident proprietors, and only 16 by non-resident proprietors; 114 estates in all; and the sum for which they were mortgaged is 1,006,783*l.* Thus he states that there are altogether in the colony 220 sugar estates, and that there is no doubt that the non-resident proprietors are the most prosperous in Demerara. He accounts for this by saying, that it is because they have more capital than the residents, and are able to avail themselves of any improvements which might take place. If there is money required for the purpose of pushing the estate in any way, it is to be had. Money is often wanted by the poor classes of the resident proprietors, and they cannot get it. That is not the case with an estate of a non-resident proprietor.

Absenteeism not the cause of the distresses of British Guiana.

Called upon to state the remedies he would propose for the present distress of the British West Indies, Mr. Barkly stated that his own feeling was there must be a protection for the next two years, and that nothing less than the amount of 10*s.* would be sufficient to induce the capitalist here to support the cultivation of the West Indies; that it would be quite two years before any reduction in the cost of growing their sugar could be made by the importation of fresh labour; if sugar could be raised 4*s.* a cwt. more by bringing the duty to 10*s.*, many estates would be carried on, but he thought it would be very unwise to give that protection for an extended period to the Colonies. He gave his reasons for these opinions at great length, and Your Committee beg to refer you to them as given in Mr. Barkly's very able evidence; but the opinion was generally founded on the idea that a longer period of protection than a period of two years would induce the labourer to ask, and the planters to give higher wages. The summary of his argument was, that if the price of sugar were raised 10*s.* a cwt. by a protection of 10*s.* for ten years, the labourers would put the difference in their pockets; but that if they understood that the protection was to be for no longer a period than two years, then the labourer would submit to a reduction of wages and the planter would gain the difference; but that if a protection of 10*s.* were not given for two years, the estates would go altogether out of cultivation. Mr. Barkly also required that they should be permitted to refine Sugar in this country in bond for home consumption, or if he thought better to bring his produce over in the state of cane-juice, or concrete, on payment of an equitable duty, that all impediments to the importation of free labourers, and the restrictions on contracts should be done away with; he stated that he could not now, under the laws that prevailed in Trinidad and Demerara, enter into a contract with a Sugar refiner in Bremen to go out of the Colony. He gave this remarkable statement to the Committee, that he found by an analysis of the pay-list and people at work on his estate during the last year, that the average number considered workmen on the estate amounted to 315; but the average number working daily was only 115; that the average number of days' work which each labourer did in a month was only eight days and three quarters, and the average earning they get for a day's labour was 1*s.* 7*d.*, and he reckoned that these 315 labourers were only equal to 90 efficient labourers working six days in a week; that if he had had 90 men working six days in the week, he says they would have made his crop of 360 hogsheads, as well as by the 315 who were professedly his labourers.

Remedial measures proposed by Mr. Barkly:

1st. Two years' protection of 10*s.*;

an extended period of protection unwise.

Supposed reasoning of the labourers.

2d. Leave to refine in bond for home consumption, &c.

3d. Abolition of restrictions upon the importation of free labourers.

Desultory manner in which the negroes work.

That was one estate. On another estate he had an average of 269 on his pay list, and this included emigrants; a great portion of these were emigrants.

Out of these 269 people there were 106 on the average working every day; they did nine days' and two-thirds of a day's work during the month, rather more than on the other estate; but they earned rather less. Therefore, if they worked more days they worked fewer hours; they earned 1s. 4d. as on an average, and were equal to about 70 efficient labourers, working six days in the week, with the usual tariff of labour.

Comparative condition
between an English
and a British Guiana
labourer.

He is asked to draw a comparison between the relative condition of the negro of British Guiana and the labourer in England: His answer is, "that it does not admit of a comparison, the labourer in British Guiana is so much better off. In Barbadoes, where there is no spare land, and where they have reduced the wages to 6d. a day, the labourer is far better off than in the English counties. There is a poor-law in British Guiana, yet in the colony of Berbice, during the last four years, the average amount of money expended in the relief of the poor has been 9l. a year, and last year he believes it was 8l.; that shows there is nothing like necessity. *There is no such thing as poverty in the country*, and it is quite impossible that it can exist, because any man can support himself by putting a few plantain roots into the ground.

Colonial expenditure
doubled.

Mr. Barkly stated that the expenditure of the colony of British Guiana, previous to 1838, which was the first year of perfect freedom, was 605,298 dollars; in 1846 it was just double; it was 1,207,281 dollars.

Demands a reduction
of 25 per cent. on the
salaries of the Govern-
ment officers.

He said that it was stated in a petition presented to the Court of Policy by the inhabitants of the colony, the whole value of the produce of the colony did not exceed 3,500,000 dollars, not quite three times the amount of taxation; and supposing that calculation to be correct, and the low price of last year to continue, it would be imperative, in the altered state of the colony, that there should be some reduction in the taxation, and that he hoped, as the whole power was vested in the Colonial Office, Lord Grey would be induced to listen to the humble requests of the colonists to reduce the salaries of the Government officers of the colony 25 per cent. He stated that the value of Sugar in the Sugar market of Demerara could certainly not be said to be more than 18l. a ton; that the production of the colony last year was about 58,000 hogsheads, which would not be much above 40,000 tons, and the expenses of the colony were 240,000l., or 6l. a ton on the produce.

BARBADOES.

Your Committee examined Mr. Carrington and Mr. Best in relation to the state of Barbadoes.

Mr. Carrington.

Mr. Carrington informed the Committee "that in the year 1842 the rate of wages was 1s. 0½d. per day of twelve hours, which, allowing three hours for refreshment, would make a working day of nine hours.

That there was a great deal of emigration to other islands going on in 1842, which has since ceased; during its continuance there was a great difficulty in getting constant labour, but that that difficulty in 1846 has become almost entirely removed.

Wages reduced since
1842 from 1s. 0½d. to
7½d.

He stated that since 1842 wages had been reduced from 1s. 0½d. to 7½d. per day, but he doubted whether this would last, and gave it as his opinion that 15l. a hogshead of 15 cwt., that is 20s. a cwt., was the lowest price that planters in Barbadoes can live on when they have to use all the improvements in cultivation, manufacturing implements, artificial manures and steam-mills.

He stated that Barbadoes contained 130,000 people; that the emigration to other islands was found not to answer with the labourers who tried it, and that they would not repeat it.

Mr. Best.

Mr. Best, who was President of the Council of Barbadoes, said that Barbadoes required no emigration, that he had not reduced his wages as much as other people, but he compensated himself by keeping up the rents that his labourers paid for their cottages.

The 17s. 6d. a cwt. would keep up the cultivation of the land, and enable the planter to live; but to prosper he ought to get 20l. a ton.

He

He complained that there were a great many expenses in the colony, in stipendiary magistrates, jails, workhouses, and police, amounting on the average to very large sums, that have arisen entirely from freedom.

Mr. H. Dummett, also a proprietor in Barbadoes, stated that in the year 1846 the rate of wages was 10 *d.* a day with a cottage, but from 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* to 15 *d.* a day without a cottage. Mr. Dummett.

He stated that the wages had been reduced, within the last three weeks, he believed, to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* a day, where they before received 10 *d.* a day; but he did not think, even at that reduction, that he could grow Sugar at a profit at the present prices.

He was asked whether there was not some further improvement in cultivation of which the island of Barbadoes might be susceptible; to which he gave the following answer, which is rather important, as it conveys practical information in respect to certain improvements of a Dr. Evans, who has published a book on West India affairs, to which some allusion has been made in the House of Commons:—"I think not; as respects all improvements in the manufacture of sugar, as I said before, they have been eagerly sought after. We hear with astonishment of our being accused of want of energy in those things. In the House of Commons some allusion was made to the late improvements of a certain Dr. Evans, who has published a book on West India affairs. I myself gave a great deal of time to that patent pan which he so highly speaks of, and I was witness to its performance in London. I was so much pleased at what I saw that I immediately undertook a voyage to the West Indies again, taking with me two of those pans, with the necessary steam-engines. As he showed here, he professes to do with this open pan at a very moderate cost, all that the most approved pan, the vacuum pan, could do; and so, to all appearance, he does in London. I made myself thoroughly acquainted with it here. I put on a working jacket, and went into the manufactory with him; but on going to the West Indies I found, when we had to employ the raw material, or the cane-juice itself, the effect was very different; it produced a most beautiful sugar, but it was of so light a nature that it did not compensate; in short, it did not realise my expectations by any means. As regards the conduct of the negroes in Barbadoes in the late distress of the West Indies, I willingly bear testimony to it; they have submitted, I understand, with a very good grace to a reduction of wages at present, in the hope of an early improvement; but when we talk of a reduction of wages, we do not consider it at all as a fixed thing. I am not sanguine that we should be able to establish such a reduction."

Dr. Evans' suggestions of the patent pan.

Excellent conduct of the negroes in Barbadoes.

The general result of the evidence with relation to Barbadoes is, that if there is a British colony which can successfully compete at all against foreign slave-grown Sugar, it would be Barbadoes; but, at the same time, with a differential duty of 6 *s.* per cwt., it appears ill able now successfully to enter into that struggle.

JAMAICA ("SMITH'S COMPANY").

Returning to the consideration of the condition of Jamaica, Your Committee, recollecting how much stress has been laid in both Houses of Parliament, and especially by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, upon the successful cultivation of Sugar plantations in Jamaica by an enterprising outlay of proprietors going and residing on their estates, of which the great example set forth has been that of Mr. Price, in connexion with the Worthy Park estate; Your Committee will content themselves by calling the attention of The House to the evidence of his brother, Mr. T. Price, the joint-proprietor and joint-trustee, and also to the evidence of Viscount Ingestre, another trustee of that estate, from which Your House will learn that all the flattering expectations that were held out of Mr. George Price's success have resulted in the most disastrous ruin.

Mr. T. Dickon.

Worthy Park.

Your Committee would also call your attention to the very valuable and important evidence of Mr. Thomas Dickon, who was formerly a Lincolnshire farmer,

Mr. Dickon and Mr. W. Smith's company.

farmer, but sent out at a salary of 1,000 *l.* a year, to manage the estate of a certain company, which has made a great noise in the world, and whose enterprising proceedings in the cultivation of sugar have been held up as the great example for all others to follow; a company with 4,000 acres, whose capital was professed to be 200,000 *l.*, and of which Mr. Joseph Ewart, and Mr. Rathbone of Liverpool were two of the directors, and Mr. Smith the active manager.

The House of Commons will remember that this is an estate of which great mention has been made in Parliament, to which general attention has been called in the publication of Mr. Joseph Sturge, of Birmingham.

Mr. Dickon, a practical farmer, was sent out without any limit as to expenditure, to carry out all the agricultural improvements which he had learnt in this country.

Mr. Dickon was not able to furnish the Committee with the details and accounts of profit and of loss; but he told the Committee that the Company started with 2,500 acres, and that it was the original intention to have purchased 20 more estates. But Your Committee think The House may easily draw its own conclusions of how far the brilliant and flattering expectations of the Company were realised, when they inform Your House that after Mr. Smith had been a short time out, he altogether abandoned all further idea of prosecuting the undertaking.

Being questioned in respect of the wages he paid, these answers were given:—

“6496. What wages did you pay the people working on the estates?—From 1 *s.* to 2 *s.* a day.

“6497. What sort of day’s labour was it?—*It was not a very good one.*

“6498. How many hours did they work?—*From six, or a little after, to two on the average; not more than that.*

“6499. Mr. Miles.] Without intermission?—*No, with perhaps an hour’s intermission.*

“6500. Chairman.] Did they come punctually at six o’clock?—Perhaps it would be from *six to half-past six*; they were tolerably punctual at that time, and *quite as punctual in returning.*

Labourers not very ready to work by the job.

“6501. Whilst they were at work did they work very hard?—No, not by any means; we used sometimes to let them the work by the job when we could, but they were not very ready to do it in that way.

“6502. Did they object to taskwork?—Yes, except at a very high price.

“6503. By taskwork you mean that you set them to dig cane-holes, for instance?—Yes.

“6504. How many cane-holes would they dig or hoe in a day?—Perhaps a man would do 100; but a good deal depends on the state of the soil at the time.

“6505. What had you to pay for those 100 cane-holes?—From 2 *s.* to 2 *s.* 6 *d.*

“6506. As far as continuous work was concerned, did they attend regularly every day in the week, or only three or four days in the week?—*Three or four days in the week; seldom more than five; sometimes they would attend five.*

“6507. *And sometimes perhaps less than three?*—Yes.

“6508. Averaging, perhaps, between three and four days a week?—Yes, perhaps so.

“6509. How were they in crop time; could you rely upon them to come and gather in the crop?—No.

The cultivation of the negro provision grounds interferes with the sugar cultivation.

“6510. Were you subject to any great losses in consequence?—*In the season that I was there I do not think we had much loss from that, but I think they are sometimes subject to very serious losses, because you cannot induce them to come to work for you if it suits them to work on their own grounds.*

“6511. That is to say, if there is a shower of rain they will stay and work on their own grounds?—Yes.

“6512. And that same shower of rain would make it desirable to have them working in the cane-field?—Yes; when the season suits them, it suits us for planting and so on.

“6513. Therefore the result is, that you lose the labour just when you want it most?—Yes; you cannot depend upon having it when you want it.

“6514. Could

"6514. Could not you get labourers by paying them higher wages?—No, I do not think you could at that time tempt them with giving them high wages.

"6515. It is not very easy to tempt them to work long hours for high wages?—No, it is not."

Mr. Dickon is asked by the Committee to draw a comparison between the labour of the black in Jamaica, and the labour of a Lincolnshire labourer; his answer is, that the Lincolnshire labourer does more than twice as much work for the same money; that the labourers have more comforts in Jamaica than the labourers have here; that the labourers in Lincolnshire have not ground, and they cannot have the same means of obtaining garden grounds as the labourers of Jamaica have of obtaining provision grounds in that country.

Comparison between a Jamaica and a Lincolnshire labourer.

The labourers in Lincolnshire have high rents to pay, and they cannot make the same of their produce as they can in Jamaica.

He is asked if the labourers in Lincolnshire are obliged to work twice as hard to get the same money. His answer is, "Yes; agricultural labourers here do twice the work for the same money, and they also go to labour when the master wants it, which is a very great thing."

Your Committee need not remind The House that one of the most effective modes of cure for the evils of the British West Indies, set forth by Earl Grey, has been the institution of central factories for the grinding of cane; they therefore pray especial attention to the following evidence:—

Mr. Dickon is asked whether it occurs to him that any great improvement might be made in the manufacture of Sugar by means of machinery, or by any different arrangement, such as instituting central factories for grinding the canes. He answers, "I am no advocate for central factories; I think they cannot be carried out to advantage, inasmuch as you want such an immense weight of cane for a small quantity of sugar; and to carry it a great distance, that is to say, if you had three or four estates, to one factory, it would not answer."

Central factories.

He is also asked if there would not be great difficulty, as all the canes come ripe at the same time, in getting them all ground at one mill? He answers, "Yes; there is only a certain time to do it in."

He is asked, "As a general rule, are there great improvements to be made?" He answers, "Yes; I think, in the majority of cases, there are improvements to be made by draining."

Improvements by draining.

He is then asked, "And can those improvements be made at a cost which would repay itself." He answers, "Not with the present labourers. *I think that the planters have no business to incur such a risk with the present labourers.*"

He says he does not profess to know anything about mills and vacuum pans; but he is asked whether he thinks much could be done in the way of improvement, by the construction of tramroads and railroads. He answers, "I am not an advocate for either the one or the other, I do not think it would pay; the cost would be greater than it was worth. You cannot have a tramway without having also labour to carry the produce to the tramway, and then you might as well bring the produce to the mill as to the tramway; that is my idea."

Tramroads and railroads.

He is asked, "When you have a tramway there are two cartings to be done, instead of one." He answers, "Yes, you cannot have a tramway every 500 or 600 yards; of course you cannot have a tramroad convenient to every place in your cane field. If you have 200 acres of cane field, unless it runs in a long strip you cannot have the tramway convenient for all, and then you have two cartings, and that would be more trouble, in some instances, than carrying it to the mill at once."

Comparing the different descriptions of labourers, he says he fancies the Coolie labourers will not do at all; they are very poor labourers, particularly the Madras people. He thinks the Africans, from what he has seen of them, would be very desirable labourers to have.

Coolie labourers will not answer: Africans desirable.

He says the Coolies are very small diminutive men, and appear to have no desire to learn. The Madras Coolies he should say are very much worse than the Calcutta Coolies, from what he has seen of them.

He says that the Coolies are a class that does not appear to mix at all with the present labourers; in fact there are several castes among them, and they

will not mix with one another, and that is found particularly inconvenient; they will not victual together.

The Africans are a very different class of people; they are stout and more muscular, and mix with the present labourers. The Africans are generally able to do more, and they work more willingly.

The Coolies appear not to have a wish to do much; they are diminutive, many of them. There are some few who do pretty well.

WEST INDIES, CUBA, PORTO RICO, AND LOUISIANA.

S. B. Moody, Esq.
C. E.

Your Committee now call the attention of The House to the evidence of S. B. Moody, Esq., an associate of the Institute of Civil Engineers; one of the most intelligent and able witnesses Your Committee called before them.

He had served his apprenticeship as an engineer in Manchester, and had learnt the trade of Sugar Refining in London, and having learnt these two trades he went out in 1843 to the West Indies.

He was asked to inform the Committee what induced him to choose the West Indies as the field of his operations; he answered that he was informed that great opportunities offered of improving the state of the West Indies by introducing scientific machinery, and he went out for the purpose of endeavouring to introduce that machinery, with a view of forwarding his own interests as well as those of the West Indies.

He said he became acquainted with many of the Sugar-making districts in the West Indies. A great many in Barbadoes, St. Vincent, St. Kitt's, Demerara, St. Croix, and also partially with those in Cuba and Louisiana.

He had also to inquire into their expenses and their mode of cultivation, and also became a little acquainted with the beet-root Sugar of France.

He is asked to give to the Committee the result of his observations on the comparative yield of Sugar from West Indian cane, and from the improved process of obtaining Sugar from beet-root.

Beet-root Sugar.

He answers, that in the beet-root works they practically get about six per cent. of the Sugar that is in the beet. The beet contains about 10 per cent., and they get rather better than six per cent., that is 66 per cent. of the weight there is of the Sugar in the beet. In the West Indies the cane contains, on an average, but 16 or 18 per cent., from the scientific experiments of chemists; that they do not get above six per cent. on the average; and the result is, that while the manufacturer of the beet-root gets two-thirds of the contents, the Sugar-cane planter gets about one-third of the contents of the plant.

He is asked, and he answers the following questions:

"5438. There is more saccharine matter in the cane than in the beet-root? — Considerably; there is nearly double the amount of saccharine matter in the cane to what there is in the beet-root; but the planter gets less.

Want of process to
extract the juice from
the cane in the West
Indies.

"5439. How do you account for that?—I account for it because they have not got the same processes in the West Indies that they have in the beet-root works; they have not for a great many reasons. In our own colonies till 1844 we were not allowed to make a high quality of sugar, and consequently there was no advantage in introducing good machinery. The measure then passed allowed us to make a higher quality of sugar, and therefore gave us an opportunity of introducing machinery to do it.

"5440. Was that as a measure of protection to the British refiners that you were prevented?—It was on account of the protection to British refiners, vigorously to 1844. Subsequently to 1844 there was still a degree of protection, but not to the same extent."

Your Committee think that the evidence of Mr. Moody is so important and so instructive that they give a great portion of it without any contraction.

"5442. You stated that you had also been in Santa Cruz and Louisiana? —I have inquired into the expense and mode of working in Louisiana; I have not been personally there, but some of my engineers have been employed there as representing me.

"5443. Will

" 5443. Did your representatives inform you that there is less difficulty in obtaining continuous labour, and less consequent waste of fuel in those islands?—Undoubtedly in Santa Cruz; I put up the machinery myself, and therefore I saw how, with even the mitigated slavery used there, there was a greater degree of continuous attentive labour. I could always get people, and they attended to the work that was given them to do. In Louisiana, in the same way, I had the same command of labour which I had in Santa Cruz; and they are not only able to work the sugar more profitably, *but both there and in Cuba they are able to get machinery at a less price, because they can work for 24 hours in the day during crop time, but in the British colonies we cannot.*

" 5444. Can you give the Committee any estimate of the advantage which that gives in the cheap production of sugar?—The advantage of being able to do the same work with half the amount of machinery is very great sometimes; it would entirely depend upon the amount of the estate. With reference to this estate in Demerara, which required an outlay of 8,000*l.*, it would have cost only 4,000*l.* to have done the same work in Cuba or Louisiana, which is a very material item in the cost of production; taking the interest on the machinery at 10 per cent., it is nearly 1*s.* per cwt.; 500 hogsheads are about 400 tons, that makes a difference of 1*s.* a cwt. Then, as to the question of fuel, there is a great saving also. I could not very well go into that, because it depends upon the nature of the juice; some juices will take more fuel to evaporate than others, but it is a very material item in the work of grinding the canes in Demerara. As compared with what it was in the time of slavery in Demerara, I found it was about 1*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. on the sugar made.

Loss, how occasioned
in the manufacture of
Sugar through want
of continuous labour.

" 5445. That is merely upon the fuel used in grinding?—Yes, the difference of fuel in grinding, not in boiling. It helps to increase the amount of supplies as contra-distinguished from wages in the West Indies; the coals, hogsheads, and puncheons on an estate making 650 hogsheads in 1831, in Demerara, cost 1,205*l.* sterling; of that amount 583 puncheons, at 20*s.*, would be 583*l.*; 650 hogsheads at 16 cwt. of sugar each, 12*s.* a hogshead, 390*l.*; leaving a balance for the coal of about 232*l.*, in the year 1831, which is about 7*s.* per ton. The coal now is generally estimated at one hogshead of coal of about 14 cwt. to grind one hogshead of sugar of about 16 cwt.; this coal at seven dollars, exclusive of the hogshead, equals about 1*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* per ton, as compared with 7*s.* in 1831 or 1832, being a difference of about 1*s.* 6*d.* a cwt. As that is compared with the grinding, it is a much greater extra expense as compared with the boiling; perhaps you have to evaporate 2,400 gallons to about 240 for each ton of sugar, which would be a very large sum; it would take boilers of from 60 to 70-horse power to do that for three tons of sugar per day.

" 5447. You reckon there should be a 60-horse power steam boilers to make about three tons of sugar a day?—Yes; so that there is 9*l.* extra for three tons of sugar per day. Therefore there is an extra expense in grinding and boiling, of about 4*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., from not having the fires properly attended to. In Demerara, when we tried the machinery first of all, I have seen the steam get very low. It is a great point in using the improved machinery, to keep the heat at a regular temperature as nearly as possible. After having it very low, we would speak, perhaps, to the fireman about it, and then he would have the safety valve blowing off; and when I have gone out to speak to him about that, I have seen him putting in more fuel, and it is in that way that fuel is wasted; sometimes the steam is too low, and sometimes a great deal too high."

[The Witness delivered in the following Paper:]

Extra expense of using
beet-root machinery
in the British West
Indies as compared
with slave colonies.

TABLE to show the Cost of Interest of Capital laid out in Machinery and Fuel, to make 400 Tons of SUGAR from the Cane by the Beet-root Machinery, Grinding included, with the necessary Skilled White Labour, and Unskilled Black and White Labour, in Slave and Free Labour Colonies respectively.

Supposing both estates to use coal as fuel, in order to save the crushed cane as manure: the saving of fuel, if crushed canes were used as fuel, would be nearly the same, but could not be as accurately distinguished, as the balance of fuel saved by slave labour would tell in the crop as manure.

	Slave-Labour Colony.	Free-Labour Colony.
Interest at 10 per cent. per annum on 4,000 l. worth of machinery erected, and calculated to grind and boil 400 tons of sugar in 100 days of 24 hours each -	£. s. d. 400 - -	£. s. d. —
Interest at 10 per cent. per annum on 8,000 l. worth of machinery erected, and calculated to grind and boil 400 tons of sugar in 100 days of 12 hours each -	- - -	800 - -
Amount of coal necessary to grind and boil 400 tons of sugar in 100 days of 24 hours each, requiring 45-horse power steam-boilers, working 24 hours per day, and consuming about 12 lbs. of coals per horse-power per hour, which is at the rate of 7 s. per ton of sugar, ground as in 1832; 585 tons at 30 s. - - -	870 - -	—
Amount of coal necessary to grind and boil 400 tons of sugar in 100 days of 12 hours each, requiring 90-horse power steam-boilers, working 12 hours per day, and consuming 37 lbs. per horse-power per hour, or 18 tons per day of 12 hours for 90-horse power, which is at the rate of 3 hogsheads of coal 14 cwt. for a 10-horse power steam-engine, grinding 3 hogsheads of sugar of 16 cwt. of sugar each, or 1 hogshead of coal to 1 hogshead of sugar, which is the average colonial rate; 1,800 tons at 30 s. - - -	- - -	2,700 - -
Skilled labour to attend to the machinery: one engineer during crop time, 100 l.; and one superior overseer for the boiling house at 100 l. per annum - - -	200 - -	—
Skilled labour to attend to the machinery: one engineer engaged for the year at 300 l. per annum; and one sugar-boiler engaged for the year at 360 l. per annum - - -	- - -	660 - -
Black and coloured labour: about 16 people, at the rate of the annual expenses of a negro, from the returns of an estate, without interest of any description, at 8 l. 6 s. 8 d. per negro per annum, or 2 l. 15 s. each per 100 days - - -	44 - -	—
Black and coloured labour: about 20 people, four extra hands being required to work by spell at the steam-boilers in the colony of Demerara, at 2 s. 1 d. per task of 8 hours, or about 3 s. per task of 12 hours, or 15 l. each negro per 100 days - - -	- - -	300 - -
£.	1,514 - -	4,460 - -
Expenses per cwt. of Sugar made - - -	- 3 9	- 11 -

Being a balance in favour of slave labour about 7 s. 3 d. as long as the West Indian planter has the slight degree of control over his labourer which he now has, and which is quite unable to enable him to ensure steady attention to his machinery, economical consumption of his supplies, and the continuous labour necessary for day and night work.

"5448. Do not the furnaces go out in consequence of your not being able to get night labour?—Yes; and there is the expense of getting heat into your fires next morning. I have not made an estimate of what that would be, because I have not worked it day and night.

"5449. Were you able to work day and night there would be a considerable saving, would there not?—Yes; but the beet-root works do not work day and night. The Cuba and Louisiana works do.

"5450. The Committee wish to compare the expense of making sugar in the British free colonies with the expense of making it in slave-holding colonies?—I give a difference of 4s. 6d. per cwt., as compared with the amount of fuel used in Demerara during mitigated slavery. Reasonably we may suppose that at least the same difference would occur between the British West Indies as free colonies, and Louisiana and Cuba. They have, besides, the extra advantage of working day and night; but that is a point I have not gone into, therefore I cannot give any detailed information as to the extra advantage which they would derive from that.

Difference, 4s. 6d. on fuel alone.

"5451. This difference of 4l. 10s. a ton does not include working day and night?—No; that 4l. 10s. is only working 12 hours in the British West Indies now, as compared with working 12 hours in the British West Indies in former times. There is another reduction of 1s. a cwt., which other people have as an advantage over the British West Indies, in getting machinery at half the cost; which makes a total difference of 5s. 6d.

"5453. This power of continuous labour would be an advantage also in regard to the quality of the sugar, would it not?—Undoubtedly it would. I find that on the estate in Cuba, where this machinery was put up, the power of having continuous labour made an improvement in the quality of the sugar of about two reals per aroba, of about 25 lbs. English; that is about eight reals or 4s. per cwt.

Improvement in the quality of sugar 4s. in Cuba by the use of beet-root machinery.

"5455. Taking the period between 1844 and 1846, did you receive a great number of orders for machinery?—Yes; altogether I received orders for about 11,000 l. worth of machinery for Barbadoes, and nearly 14,000 l. worth for Demerara. It was chiefly in 1845 and the beginning of 1846 that I received those orders; but since then a check has been given to all that.

"5456. Have you found that the orders for improved machinery have proceeded from residents in the islands, or from absentee planters living in this country?—*Almost entirely from absentees; those few planters who were resident in the islands had to go to the absentees for their money to do it.*

Orders for improved machinery almost entirely from absentees.

"5458. In those periods, prior to the Act of 1846, did you observe that the residents in England were very active in sending out improved implements?—Yes; I have mentioned that I received orders for a certain amount of machinery, but a great deal of machinery went from other parties as well as through myself. I should say there was, generally speaking, a great stimulus given to every kind of improvement during that period.

"5459. Upon the passing of the Act of 1846 was a great check given to it?—Decidedly; in fact all the orders stopped towards the end of 1846. Some went forward just immediately after the Bill, but in the beginning of 1847 the orders were countermanded which had been given, and since that time I have not heard of anybody sending out machinery through myself or any other house.

"5460. Are there not also other difficulties in working the machinery, from the want of engineers and mechanics, and people to repair the machinery?—Yes; to the estates to which I sent out the 8,000 l. worth of machinery, there was a sugar-boiler sent out at 400 l. a year, and an engineer at 390 l. a year, for those two estates alone. That alone is nearly 800 l. or 2s. a cwt. on the amount of sugar which was previously made. Their presence improved the quality of the sugar, of course.

"5461. To what extent, do you think?—That is difficult to tell; we only know that they can do without those people in Cuba.

"5462. In Cuba, where slavery exists, can they trust to their slaves for the performance of that labour?—They would have one man, perhaps, at a lower salary; they would not have had two first-class men; they would have a man at a salary of 200 l. a year, which would make a difference of 1s. 6d. per cwt.

"5463. Do you consider that the foreign colonists have any advantages in their manufacture of sugar by the ordinary process over the British colonists?—Yes, they have a very great advantage. In the first quality of their goods,

Dryness not obtained by great skill, but by thorough command of unskilled labour.

which come to the grocers, the white-clayed, they have not so great an advantage, because the grocers rather prefer a little moist sugar; at least so I was told by grocers when I was introducing those improvements; but in the other qualities of sugar, which the refiners use, they have a great advantage, because they come home dry; therefore the refiner obtains more saccharine matter. This dryness is obtained not by great skill on their part, but by having a thorough command of unskilled labour. They put their sugar into moulds, which requires no sort of skill, but requires labour, and by means of that labour they are able to make the dry sugars. We have not got the labour to put it in the moulds; we were not allowed to do it until 1844, and now we have not the labour to do it.

Louisiana:
Cotton cultivation converted into Sugar.

"5469. Has your attention been drawn to the manner in which the cultivation of sugar in Louisiana has been increased?—Yes. I find from returns that in 1844 there were 70 new estates put into sugar in Louisiana; in several of the lower parts of Louisiana the cotton cultivation has been converted into sugar. The receipts of the sugar, from the 1st of September 1846 to the 1st of September 1847, were 80,000 tons, though that was a crop which suffered very much that year by an early frost, against 90,000 tons in 1845–46, which was a good crop, and against a good crop of 50,000 tons in 1841–42; so that it had very nearly doubled between 1841 and 1847. The crop received from the interior, from the 1st of September 1847 up to January 19th, 1848, was 45,679 hogsheads, against 38,961 hogsheads the previous year, being an increase of about 20 per cent. The receipt of cotton from the interior into Louisiana fell off very much. In 1845 and 1846 the receipt of cotton from the interior was altogether 453,000 bales; and in 1846–47, 374,000 bales. A great deal of this short crop was also owing to the uplands of Alabama and Tennessee being put into Indian corn. The receipts have fallen off, from the 1st of September 1847 to January 1848, from 86,000 to 39,000 bales, which was attributable to the change in the cultivation of the upland districts into corn, and in the lower districts the falling off was attributable to the conversion of cotton into sugar. The price of growing the produce in Louisiana is about three dollars, or about 12 s. 6 d. a cwt."

Cost of producing Sugar, 12 s. 6 d.

Contrast between what the negro will, and the land will not do.

In passing, however, Your Committee cannot help avoiding drawing more than ordinary attention to the effect that Sugar cultivation has had in diminishing the Cotton cultivation of Louisiana, and to the extraordinary contrast which Mr. Moody's evidence exhibits between the production of Sugar in Louisiana and in the West Indies, showing, that whilst in Louisiana they reckon 2,000 lbs. weight of Sugar only to an acre, they reckon 4,000 lbs. to a slave, that is to say, from planted canes; whilst in the British West Indies they get 4,000 lbs. of Sugar from the acre, and only 2,500 lbs. of Sugar from the labourer; so that the land of the West Indies produces double the quantity of Sugar, but the labourer only five-eighths as much Sugar as the Louisiana Slave.

Porto Rico:
Cost of Sugar, 8 s. 6 d.

Mr. Moody says that the expense of producing Sugar from an estate in Porto Rico was about 8 s. 6 d. a cwt., after deducting offal.

That in 1828–29 he understood the cost of producing Sugar in Cuba was 10 s. a cwt., but it is now reduced to 8 s. 6 d.

Beet-root.

Mr. Moody is asked if he considers that any skill applied to the manufacture of Beet-root can enable the Beet-root Sugar to compete with Slave-grown Sugar, and with the skill put in operation by the slaves; he answers, "I think not, for this reason, that in the last Price Current, of the 17th February 1848, in France, Beet-root Sugar was selling at 104 francs per 100 kilogrammes, which is about 57 francs a cwt. including the duty. There is an excise duty on Beet-root Sugar of 19 francs per cwt. that leaves a net price of 38 francs, or nearly 31 s. per cwt." He added, that the price of Martinique and Guadeloupe Sugar, when Beet-root Sugar was selling at 57 francs, was 60 francs a cwt.; so that the Martinique and Guadeloupe was selling at a little higher price, that is, 2 s. 10 d. a cwt., which, with 31 s., the price named before, would give a short price of 33 s. 10 d. a cwt. for Martinique and Guadeloupe Sugar, on the 17th February 1848, in France, whilst on the same day the Gazette average price of British Sugar in England was 24 s. 11½ d., showing a difference in favour of the French as against the English colonist of 8 s. 10 d. in the price of Cane Sugar, whilst British Sugar was underselling Beet-root Sugar 6 s. 0½ d. a cwt.

Barbadoes.

Mr. Moody, in speaking of Barbadoes, says, that the Sugar is of very fine quality, but there is a little less of it to the acre than in Demerara and Trinidad,

dad, and then being asked the following questions in respect to the state of labour of Barbadoes, he gives the following answers :—

“ 5495. What do you say of Barbadoes as regards labour ; * there is an immense population there ; is there the same difficulty in getting labour as in other West India Islands ?—No, there is not ; because that large population gives a command of labour ; the people have less land to cultivate their provisions on, therefore they are obliged to work for wages to purchase those provisions ; and though there is an absence of attentive labour in Barbadoes, still labour is much better there than in other colonies.

“ 5496. How near, in that respect, do you think Barbadoes comes to Cuba ?—I cannot give the details of any estate, but in reference to several estates that came under my notice when I was there, I took the average expense of producing sugar at 15 s. a cwt. ; it is difficult to calculate it in Barbadoes. I have a return of a whole parish, with the names of the estates, and the produce in 1837, 1838, 1839, and 1840, and there is a great variety of climate during those respective years ; some were very dry. Here are estates that made 170 hogsheads in one year, and which made only 16 in the last year, 1840 ; and in the year when that estate made 170 hogsheads of sugar it of course made it at a reduced price ; but I take the average upon a number of estates for 10 years ; and taking the average of years and the average of the estates, it is about 15 s. a cwt. delivered on the beach. From a return I have taken from the first edition of a work on the Sugar Cane, by Mr. Porter, I find that the price in 1822 was only 6 s. a cwt.”

He is afterwards asked if the labourers at Barbadoes could be got to work night and day at the mills, to which he answers, he should imagine not. In the first place they cannot very well work by night and day in Barbadoes, as they depend very much on windmills, they have no water power, and the expense of putting up steam mills would be a heavy charge on estates there, unless several estates were united.

Windmills in Barbadoes ; steam mills too expensive for small estates.

The Committee now call the attention of The House to Mr. Moody's opinion of the practicability of importing cane juice into this country ; and this question is put to him : “ Suppose the cane juice were allowed to be imported into this country, and you had the advantages of machinery, and the skill and capital here for converting the cane juice into sugar, would there be so great a loss as there is now ? His answer is, “ That depends on the increased cost of freight and also the degree of acidity that may occur on the voyage. I have never seen any mode yet (and I have heard of a good many) which will enable that juice to be transferred to England without its becoming acid. I have known syrup tried from Porto Rico to New York, a much shorter distance, and fail, and therefore I think there is much less chance of its being successful in the case of cane juice brought to this country ; we are not in a position to say that it can be done.

Cane juice.

The Witness is then asked—

“ 5520. Supposing the difficulty of fermentation on the passage were got over, there would be no greater loss in converting the cane juice into sugar than there is in converting the beet-root into sugar ?—Yes, there would, because we lose a great deal in expressing the juice out of the cane, from inattention. It depends upon the degree to which the mill is braced and the rollers are tightened together ; and I have seen cases, and in fact, I have tried it myself, where there has been great loss, and I have obtained an increased result of 12 per cent. The mill is braced up, and if the person feeding the mill puts in too many canes, that chokes it up ; then he is apt to loosen the mill, and there is consequently a loss of the juice out of the cane.

Loss in the West Indies by the negro not attending to the sugar-mill.

“ 5521. That is from want of attention, which arises from a want of labour in the island ?—From a want of control over the labour.”

Mr. Moody is then asked if the French refiners do not prefer Beet-root to Cane Sugar ; and he answers, “ I should say decidedly not ; it is very weak sugar, and sells lower than Martinique or Guadaloupe refining sugar, and therefore I do not think it can be so.”

Beet-root sugar.

He is asked if it is not the fact that the French government have lately removed all restrictions on the export of Beet-root Sugar. He answers, “ I

am not aware, but I do not think there would be any advantage if they did; for we see in that it costs considerably more than other Sugar; it costs 38 francs per cwt., therefore nobody would buy it."

He is asked how he arrives at those figures? He answers, "From the Price Current."

With regard to Beet-root Sugar in Germany, Mr. Moody is asked, and answers the following questions:—

"5658. Are you aware that in Germany the beet-root sugar is being generally used?—I am aware that it is, under a high protection.

"5659. In what neighbourhood?—Throughout Silesia and that district

"5660. Do you know anything of the neighbourhood of Magdeburg?—I saw the prices of some sugars made at Magdeburg from beet-root, and they were upwards of twice the price of the same quality of sugar at Hamburg.

"5661. Where was that?—It was in the Liverpool Times and some other papers, in December of last year, or January of this year.

"5662. You are not aware that in Magdeburg the beet-root sugars are underselling the foreign without any protection whatever?—Certainly not.

"5663. The Hamburg sugar was in bond, but the other had paid duty?—Hamburg sugar pays a very small duty, three per cent. *ad valorem*.

"5664. You, in reply to a question of Mr. Gibson, suggested that the French beet-root sugar could not come to this market, because the price is higher in France; are you not aware that on the exportation of refined sugar in France there is a large drawback?—I have taken the net price of the sugar, after deducting the duty. I do not know the amount of drawback; there may be some arrangement in regard to drawback, by which the refiners of sugar receive more for drawback than they have strictly a right to; but what I deduct is the duty on the sugar.

"5665. The drawback is, in fact, larger than the duty?—Then that amounts to a protection on the sugar."

Having recommended that laws should be carried into effect respecting Squatting in the West Indies, and having referred to the Dutch law, Mr. Moody is then asked, and he answers the following questions:—

Squatting:
Mr Moody suggests
a remedy.

"5740. *Chairman.*] You stated, that under the Dutch law no person could purchase a smaller extent of land than half a lot?—In the town of Demerara that is the case.

"5741. What is the extent of a lot under the Dutch law?—That depends upon the position; the quantity in George-town was very small; I had two half lots, and the frontage was 300 feet by 150 feet, or something of that sort.

"5742. Then you would propose that that lot should be much enlarged, as you would not allow any person to purchase a smaller extent of land than half a lot?—I should put a tax on 100 acres, not on such a small quantity; let them break it up among themselves afterwards if they liked.

"5743. What tax do you think would be sufficient?—I do not think the tax required would be very high, because the number of people that would be required to join together in purchasing that quantity would make them backward in purchasing it, and therefore it would keep them more together. I should say a tax of 3*l.* an acre would be sufficient.

"5744. For the transfer?—For the transfer.

"5745. Mr. Wilson asked you a question about a land tax; do you think if there were a land tax, and the sugar plantations and coffee plantations were exempt, as in Java sugar lands are exempt from the tax, it might have a good effect?—Undoubtedly it might; but then there would be great difficulty in maintaining that law; it would be a one-sided law; but I would make the transfer tax extend over small lots less than 100 acres; it should be at the rate of 3*l.* an acre, on 100 acres and under.

"5746. You do not mean an annual tax?—No, a transfer tax; the other applied to an annual tax on other lands than sugar and coffee lands."

J A M A I C A.

Lord Howard de Walden, to whose evidence Your Committee have before adverted, stated, that under slavery the whole extent of his father's cane field was about 1,100 acres, of which 640 acres were actually bearing canes for crops. Since Emancipation, with the exception of the years 1836, 1837, and 1838, there have not been 300 acres. Those, Your Committee need not remind The House, were years of Apprenticeship. In the year 1839, the year of the expiration of Apprenticeship, the number under Sugar-cane cultivation fell to 212 acres.

Lord
Howard de Walden.

Extent of sugar cultivation on Lord Howard de Walden's property before and since Emancipation.

1840	-	-	-	to	-	-	-	200	acres
1841	-	-	-	to	-	-	-	171	„
1842	-	-	-	to	-	-	-	202	„

He stated that there was this remarkable circumstance attending his estate, that whilst previous to Emancipation there were but 800 negroes on the estate, there were now altogether 1,500 on the estate. He said that there was a cane field of 500 acres of very fine land, lying contiguous to the works, which it would be a great object to establish, but from the want of command of labour they had never been able to establish even 300 acres. He states that if he had a sufficient supply of labour he could maintain the cultivation of 1,100 acres; but that it would not pay at the present wages. He says that the greatest number of days that any negro worked upon the Sugar estate in the last year was 184 days, and upon his pen 147 days; on the Shuttlewood Estate, that is the Pen Estate, there was but one solitary instance out of 130 labourers of any one working 147 days, and that labourer was a woman. That the women do nearly as much work as the men, and he employs people principally by task-work, who earn 2 s. a day. He is asked regarding the condition of the negroes both before and after Emancipation, and he gives the following answers to the questions:—

Number of negroes on the property before and since Emancipation.

Greatest number of days last year that any negro worked on the sugar property.

“ I can say nothing of my own experience as to the state of the negro before emancipation; it is only from hearsay that I can draw a comparison between their state then and their present state, but at the present moment, as far as my observation and my knowledge of the population in other countries go, I should say that I do not know any population in any part of the world that I have visited so much at their ease as the negro population in Jamaica.

No population in any part of the world he has visited so much at ease as the negro population of Jamaica.

“ 4492. What are their tastes?—They are very fond of dress and amusements of all kinds; one of their objects in obtaining a day in the week for marketing is that they consider the market-day as a day of pleasure. One of the reasons why we have found it so difficult to obtain continuous labour has been their taking so many holidays; they like holidays to celebrate emancipation, and they take holidays at Christmas and at Easter, and during those times they are going about the country and galloping about the roads on their own horses.

Labourers keep their horses.

“ 4493. What proportion of the labourers on your estate keep and ride their own horses?—A considerable number keep horses. I have an account of the proportion on my estate of riding horses; upon my Shuttlewood estate the number for which they pay rent is 74.

“ 4494. How many families have you upon that estate?—*One hundred and fifty-six houses.*

“ 4495. Out of 156 houses 74 keep their horses?—Yes; but in addition to that, they have their brood mares, and the value of those mares to them is considerable, as I ascertained, from the difficulty I had in obtaining mares to breed from.

“ 4446. I observe from the heading of one of your estates that it was a pen and butchery; in accounting for the loss upon the butchery account, it is stated that there had been a diminution in the sales, from the circumstance that the negroes had taken to killing their own meat?—Yes.

Kill their own meat.

“ 4447. In point of fact, then, they ride their own horses, and they kill their own meat?—Yes.”

He is asked various questions with regard to the possible reductions that might

might be made in the expenditure of the Government establishments in Jamaica; these are the questions and answers given upon that subject:—

“4552. Can you state what are the various expenses of the island, and what expenses might be reduced?—I consider that all our expenses in Jamaica are infinitely too high, and that the expenses of the whole establishment in Jamaica ought to be reduced.

“4553. *Mr. Goulburn.*] Do you mean the establishment of the island, or the establishment on particular estates?—The establishment of the island.

Salaries of Government officers much too high.

“4554. *Chairman.*] You would begin with the Governor, and go down to the lowest Custom-house officer; is that so?—I think that the salaries of all the officers are infinitely too high.

“4555. That is in reference to the reduced circumstances of the island?—Yes, because they have to be paid for by the planters.”

“4560. *Mr. Goulburn.*] Has not a great burden been created by the improvements that have been of late years introduced in reference to police regulations, and also in reference to gaols?—The charges are heavy, and many of them quite disproportionate to the resources of the island. I should say that all the machinery which was established during the apprenticeships is superfluous now; for instance, the chairmen of quarter sessions and the stipendiary magistrates. I think that an effective police, and giving the Governor of Jamaica greater power with reference to the appointments, would be a much more advantageous thing for the island than that those appointments should be made from home. I think you have now a class of planters and others from whom you could select proper persons for those offices, and that it would be more suitable and have more effect upon the negro population to see persons of that class appointed to those situations than to have persons sent out from England; the mere fact of stipendiary magistrates being sent out from England produces a bad effect upon the population, and makes them think that it is necessary to have some protection against the proprietors.

“4561. *Chairman.*] How many Coolie superintendents have you in Jamaica?—I do not know; the whole system of Coolie immigration was very ill managed.

Coolie superintendents unable to speak the language, and not of much use

“4562. Those Coolie superintendents have very high salaries; but they cannot speak the language of the negroes, and therefore they are of little use?—They are not of much use.

“4563. Are there more Coolies than superintendents?—Certainly; one of the causes of the Coolie immigration not succeeding, I think, was the want of interpreters, and the inability of making known what the people were to do, though we have superintendents of Coolies who are receiving salaries. I wish to confine anything I say to what I know myself. I will illustrate what I have said by what happened to myself. When those Coolies were sent to the island we were tied down by very strict regulations, which we found on experience to work very badly; we were obliged to give the Coolies rations whether they worked or not, and the consequence was that they were always pretending to be ill, and they were supported just the same as if they were working. At last, in consequence of a representation made to the Government, it was decided that the Coolies were only to be paid when they did a day's work, and orders were sent to the superintendents of the Coolies to explain this to them. I happened to go down to my works the day the superintendent of Coolies appeared there, to explain to them the new contract, and I saw him pacing backwards and forwards before the overseer's house in great distress, not able to make the people understand the new contract; the consequence of that was that when we tried to carry out the new contract, the Coolies were dissatisfied, and went to seek stipendiary magistrates in different parts of the district, and we lost their services during the time they were dissatisfied. All that was the result of there being nobody to explain to them that this contract was a contract sanctioned by Government, and not forced upon them by the planters.

“4564. Those superintendents have 300 l. a year a piece?—Yes, I believe something of that kind; but all that appears in the budget.

“4565. Are those expenses provided out of the island resources?—Yes.

“4566. With respect to stipendiary magistrates, do you believe that there is any need of stipendiary magistrates?—No; I conceive, on the contrary, we ought not to have stipendiary magistrates. The spirit in which they were originally adopted

adopted was a mischievous one, as between the planter and the negro, because they were appointed as protectors of the negro against the planter during the apprenticeship, which was a modified slavery; but now the negro is perfectly independent, and you wish to place him in the position of a tenant or a peasant in this country towards the proprietor; *it is very mischievous having that kind of magistrate to step in between the peasant and the landlord.*

Stipendiary magistrates to step in between peasant and landlord very mischievous.

"4567. They get 300 l. a year, do not they?—They are well paid; the chairman of quarter sessions is very highly paid; I think he has about 1,500 l.; they are very highly paid.

"4568. Is that in the gift of the Colonial Office?—*I believe they are all.*

"4569. How many chairmen of quarter sessions are there?—I think there are six chairmen of quarter sessions. I am not aware whether they are paid by Government at home.

"4570. Would there be any more difficulty in Jamaica in finding chairmen of quarter sessions, who would give their services gratis, than there is in England?—It is difficult to say who would give their services absolutely gratis. In many instances I should think they would not, but they would give their services at a much lower rate than the chairmen of quarter sessions receive now.

"4571. There is no indisposition among the resident gentlemen of Jamaica to give their services as magistrates without payment, is there?—On the contrary, they are extremely ready to act as magistrates; there is a very numerous class of magistrates in every district; and, as far as my experience goes, highly respectable.

Resident gentlemen of Jamaica very ready to act as magistrates.

"4572. Have you been in Cuba since you left Jamaica?—I came home by Cuba.

"4573. Did you see any of the sugar plantations in Cuba?—Yes; I saw one of the best sugar estates in the island; at least it was pointed out to me as one of the best in the island.

"4574. What was the condition of the slaves upon that plantation?—*The appearance of the slaves was very different from that of the negro in our colonies; they did not work with any cheerfulness, but then they worked, I believe, 18 or 20 hours a day, whereas ours work about six or seven hours.*

"4575. What proportion of women did there appear to be on those estates in Cuba?—*I believe upon that estate there were no women.*

"4576. Do you know how many men there were?—I cannot say certainly; there were 300 or 400 I believe upon it, but it is a thing of perfect notoriety that upon a great many estates in Cuba they do not admit a woman; they consider that upon a calculation of economy the best thing is to work out the whole energies of a negro in the cultivation or manufacture of sugar, and not to allow of any distraction of any kind from his work.

"4577. Are the overseers obliged to go armed?—Yes, I believe invariably; the 'mayoral' (who represents the 'overseer' in Jamaica) had his cutlass and his dagger, and he had three bloodhounds at his heels close by him; and I understand that it was the custom throughout the whole island, that no white man belonging to an estate would go anywhere unarmed; they would not go on foot to any distance; but on horseback they always have their pistols besides.

"4578. Are the slaves locked up at night?—I do not know how that is; I should think not; I suppose they have huts to live in.

"4579. Did you hear that suicides were very common among the slaves?—I believe they are very common, but particularly among that class of negroes called emancipados, who are much worse treated than the absolute slave. The emancipados are those slaves who have been captured by our cruizers and liberated by the sentence of the Slave Trade Commission, who ought to have been apprenticed to humane masters during the time necessary to qualify them to become peasants and learn the language of the island.

"4580. The governor gets a fee for letting them out, does not he?—Such is the practice.

"4581. Did you understand when you were in the island, that the slave trade was still being carried on?—It was denied by some persons; but on pushing inquiries, a very intelligent merchant made this remark to me, 'It is difficult to specify instances in which slaves have been landed in the island, but when you know that the black population is increasing, and that the number of men to

women is more than 100 to one, it is difficult to account for their increase in any other way than by the importation of fresh slaves.'

"4582. Was the island of Cuba in a state of great prosperity when you were there; were the planters in good spirits?—The planters were in very great spirits; they were hiring negroes from the coffee estates; there had been a hurricane in the spring, and they were hiring the slaves from the coffee plantations at the rate of 16 dollars a month; the price that the sugar planter obtains is such as to induce him to pay those high wages for the work of the slaves from the coffee plantations."

"4640. Mr. *M. Gibson.*] Are you to be understood that you consider the present price of sugar inadequate to replace the cost of production upon the great majority of estates in Jamaica?—I should say so entirely.

"4641. You would recommend that some steps should be taken by the Legislature to raise that price?—Certainly.

"4642. To what extent would you recommend that that addition to the price should be made?—One cannot form a calculation merely with reference to one's own individual position; but as far I can judge, I should say that it would be necessary at least to have a protection of 10 *s.* upon the present prices."

Protection of 10 *s.*
necessary.

J A M A I C A.

Peter Borthwick,
Esq.

Mr. Borthwick, who was formerly a Member of Your House, returned from Jamaica on the 3d of February last, elected by the Chamber of Commerce at Kingston to represent their interests, gave evidence generally, confirming that which had already been laid before the Committee, and in addition, he gave evidence with respect to certain estates in Cuba, of which he produced a statement of the revenues. His evidence is as follows:—

"12884. Mr. *Hope.*] When you say that they were getting three tons to each negro, do you mean on the average of the whole island, or merely the produce on a particular estate?—I mean the average of those 46 estates, the particulars of which I have given in; and I believe the same average would be given if an examination were to be made into all parts of Cuba where that description of planter existed."

He is then asked respecting the number of abandoned estates, and especially of Coffee estates. These are the portions of the evidence to which the Committee refer:—

140 Sugar estates,
465 Coffee plantations
abandoned.

"12890. You think we must deal with both sugar and coffee to effect a complete cure?—Undoubtedly. I will direct the attention of the Right Honourable Gentleman to page 2 of Mr. Barclay's Report, where it is stated that there were 653 estates then in cultivation in the island; 140 have been abandoned, and three broken up; 168,032 acres of land were contained in those estates; during the same period 465 coffee plantations have been abandoned.

Coffee case, if any-
thing, worse than
sugar.

"12891. If anything, the coffee case is worse than the sugar case?—I think it is; it is hardly possible anything can be worse, but it is not better certainly."

"12893. Mr. *Wilson.*] Is not it the case that the coffee has been abandoned in a great measure, in order to transfer the labour to the cultivation of sugar?—It is a very singular fact, that whereas the people in this country, myself among others, imagined always that the negro when made free would be willing enough to cultivate coffee, but would not be willing to labour in the cultivation of sugar, he has actually by experience proved that he is more willing to labour in the cultivation of sugar than in the cultivation of coffee.

"12894. Is not that because he gets higher wages?—No, he gets higher wages for coffee. I have some leaves which I tore out by permission of the owners from the pay-books of some estates; from this the Committee will see that the average wages of the labourer in picking coffee is 4 *s.* a day; they earn from 2 *s.* to 6 *s.* a day; sometimes more than that.

"12895. In that case do they work by the piece?—In that case they are picking coffee at 9 *d.* a bushel, which is the lowest price which is paid in Jamaica;
in

in crop time in sugar they do not earn much more than 2s. and 3s. a day, the very best labourers."

With respect to the far-famed estate of Mr. William Smith, to which reference has before been made, he gave the information contained in the answers to the following questions:—

"12897. In speaking to Mr. William Smith with regard to this coffee cultivation, he told me that he and his brother had taken some coffee plantations in some of the remote parts of Jamaica, and that they found no difficulty whatever in getting abundance of labour at 1s. a day; that it was a great advantage to the neighbourhood, and that the people hailed it as such; that they commenced the cultivation of this coffee?—I do not know what part of the island that might have been in. I know Mr. William Smith; he is a gentleman of very great energy, and a man who would certainly carry out with the greatest possible enthusiasm any plan that he adopted. I know he is the head of a company called the "Land Company," and that with the advantage of almost unbounded capital he went out to Jamaica, being a native of Jamaica, and he hoped that by purchasing and renting estates he would be able to show the planters that they did not want any aid from the Legislature, but that they wanted energy. He set about it very energetically, and he gave high wages; he gave as much as 2s. 6d. a day on the estate of Cornwall, in the parish of Westmoreland, and 1,000 l. a year to his manager; he took out two Englishmen, farmers, acquainted with English agriculture, on purpose. The labourers came to him in great numbers from the neighbouring estates; my friend, who is a great admirer of Mr. Smith, lost a number of his labourers in consequence of that for a time; but Mr. Smith found, that though he got a great many labourers, he did not get 2s. 6d. worth of work out of them in a day, therefore he was obliged to change his system altogether. He has now placed in Cornwall what are called old-time planters, and I do not know why he should not ultimately succeed, provided that the colonies are treated with justice in this country; but Mr. Smith's attempts have illustrated, beyond any example that could be put forth, that no energy, no amount of capital, and no enthusiasm on the part of the proprietors, can surmount the difficulties which the Home legislation has placed in the way of the planters. I have here a statement from Mr. Stewart's estates in Green Valley; one woman, her daughter, and her daughter's husband, with two children under eight years of age, earned in four days, picking coffee, at 9d. a bushel, from the 11th to the 15th of October in the year 1847, as follows: Charles Fagan, the man, 1l. 5s. 9d.; the mother-in-law, Helen Davidson, 8s.; Ann Fagan, the wife, 8s. 6d.; so that between those three alone there was 2l. 2s. 3d. earned in that time, and two of those labourers were women. On the 3d of November, a gang upon that same property struck for 1s. a bushel; it is easy for a weak picker, at 9d. a bushel, to earn 3s., and a middling one 4s. Charles Fagan, who earned 6s. 6d., is considered a very good picker.

Smith's Estate.

"Old-time" planters restored.

High wages earned by inferior workpeople.

"12898. Is that because it requires more skilful labour?—No; I could myself perform the sugar operations of the sugar cultivation better than the coffee. I attempted both, and I could succeed in all parts of the sugar labour, but I could not manage the coffee picking, because I could not keep the vessel upon my head into which they pick it."

Asked further questions in respect of Coffee Planting, he gives these answers:—

"12900. There is no progress, is there, after the tree is planted?—There is cleaning, which is very important. The tropical vegetation is very rapid; the difference in two or three weeks is prodigious. On a coffee plantation which I saw, belonging to Mr. Carson, I saw the negroes refuse to go out to clean; they were plants which had been put in 8 or 10 months; they refused to go out, and Mr. Carson asked them why they were unwilling to go; the reason they gave was, that in three weeks more massa would give them more wages; he offered them 1s 6d.; then they knew the weeds would grow so high in three weeks that he would be willing to give them more wages to get rid of his weeds. The weeds do grow so rapidly that if they are not constantly kept cleaned they spoil the plant.

Fatal consequences of weeds to the coffee plants.

"12901. Has not that reference rather to the young coffee plant?—It has quite

quite as much reference to the old plant; the weeds would not grow in the same way, nor would the same weeds grow; but there is a character of weed which does grow, and it requires to be taken away.

"12902. How many years does the coffee tree bear in Jamaica?—I saw a coffee tree which was planted 120 years ago, and which was in very beautiful bearing. They say that if you take a coffee piece out of cultivation you can never bring it in again. I never could understand why that should be, but that is the answer that all coffee planters give; they say when a field goes out of heart and is useless, you cannot, even by taking out the old trees and putting in new ones, get coffee from it again; therefore coffee is not like sugar, but becomes completely exhausted when the field is worn out.

"12903. *Chairman.*] Coffee takes five years to come into fruit, does it not?—To come into full bearing; it will bear fruit in three years, but comes into full bearing in five years, and then it continues bearing a great many years. There is that belief, but, as I have stated to the Committee, I could never see the reason for it.

"12904. *Mr. Wilson.*] Is not the picking done very much by women and children?—Very much indeed; men are employed; the planter is too glad to get any description of labourers who can pick.

"12905. Do you remember why Mr. Gladstone made a difference between the sugar duties and the coffee duties, in allowing the introduction of slave labour coffee, when he declined to allow the introduction of slave labour sugar?—Yes; but I do not see that the negroes at all sympathized with Mr. Gladstone in that opinion.

Mr. Gladstone's distinction between slave labour, as applied to coffee and sugar.

"12906. You do not think that Mr. Gladstone's view was a correct one?—I only judge from the fact; I find that the negroes are quite as willing to work in the sugar cultivation as they are in the coffee cultivation, and rather more so. Whether that is because they get advantages during crop time in sugar, I cannot say; they are very fond of gathering the canes, and I am afraid they like stealing the canes too. With reference to the condition of the negroes, they are willing to labour. I should state to the Committee that in the island of Jamaica there are two millions of acres of land wholly virgin soil. It is in evidence already before the Committee, that of 653 sugar estates in cultivation in the island 140 have been abandoned, and 400 coffee estates have been abandoned, and those represent a population of many thousands. There was a competition between the planters; the proprietors of large estates, or men who could command wealth, gave high wages to a few labourers on purpose to get the labour, and they swallowed up the little estates in consequence of that; they defeated their own purpose, because no sooner were the little estates abandoned than the negroes became independent settlers upon the little estates. It is constantly quoted in this country that negro villages may be seen in Jamaica representing the greatest possible amount of physical comfort, and no doubt that is true; there is nothing in England, even among the lowest class of farmers, which can at all be compared to the state of physical comfort in which the negro lives in Jamaica. In the parish of St. Thomas-in-the-East there is an estate which has been broken up in that way, and it is covered with negro villages. There is not a negro hardly who is not possessed of a horse. I saw upon one Sunday in another part of the island, near Falmouth, at Mr. Bligh's church, a Scotch missionary there, 45 horses, which I counted waiting at the door for their masters, who are negroes, whom they had carried to church, and whom they were to carry home again; there were seven gigs, very handsome vehicles, waiting at the door also for their negro proprietors. All those negroes had been slaves, and not one of them was above the rank of a field labourer at that moment. The value of the horses, as horses sell in Jamaica, would be from 15*l.* to 60*l.*; many of the horses possessed by the negroes are very fine animals indeed; they have a fault in Jamaica that they breed their horses too high; they are generally blood horses. The great ambition of a labourer is to get a horse."

Nothing in England at all to be compared to the comfort in which the Jamaican Negro lives.

Hardly a negro but is possessed of a horse.

He was afterwards asked what proportion of freeholders in Jamaica were emancipated blacks? He answers,

"I have not a list of the various electoral districts, but I can state that the proportion over the whole colony is as nearly as may be 20 to 1. There are 20 black freeholders and electors for one voter, taking the whole colony.

Twenty black to one white freeholder.

"12959. With

" 12959. With respect to coffee, Mr. Lewis says, 'Coffee properties bear no actual value; they are unsaleable at almost any price. Many have been publicly advertised for a length of time for sale, and no offer has been made for them.' You attribute the condition of the coffee estates to the depressed price of coffee, do not you; that it is not a remunerating price to the growers of coffee?—At the cost at which the planter is obliged to produce it, it is not.

" 12960. Is there any feeling that that remunerating price of coffee can be restored by any legislation that might be adopted?—The cost of production can be reduced, which is in effect raising the price.

" 12961. Do you think that under any circumstances they can compete with the growers of coffee in Ceylon?—There are parts of Jamaica in which they can compete with Ceylon, no doubt. I do not think that that remark applies to all the island. In Manchester and some parts of St. George's, though there are very fine coffee-producing powers in the soil, I doubt whether it could compete with Ceylon.

" 12962. Do not you believe that the increased production of coffee in Ceylon, looking to the fineness of that climate and that soil, is one of the main causes of the depression of the West India coffee estates?—I think so; but I think it would not have had that effect with the labour which is in Jamaica if proper provisions had accompanied the Act of 1834, for securing the labour of the negro. That distinction ought never to be lost sight of for a moment. It is not true that there are too few hands in Jamaica to do all the work which is required. The fact is, that there is not a motive sufficient to induce them to work; there are plenty of men and women to do the work, but there is no motive to induce them to do it."

Plenty of people to do the work, but no motive to induce them.

With respect to immigrants he gives the opinion to be found in his answer to Question 12926.

"What would be the effect of immigration?—It would be highly beneficial. I have in my hands a speech of Sir Charles Grey to the parish of St. Thomas-in-the-East. 'The efficiency, Mr. Custos, of the African labourers employed by your Honour, their unmistakable air of contentment and cheerfulness; their orderly demeanor and intelligence; their willing observance of religious rites, and attendance at church worship; and the quickness with which their children attain education in the schools provided for them, have fully satisfied me not only that by the influx of immigrants from Africa all that is wanted here in the way of labour may be supplied, but that it may be supplied without the slightest disturbance of social relations or order, and with so vast an improvement, physical, moral, intellectual, and religious, of the condition of the immigrants themselves, that it may be regarded almost as a transition to another life and another world. Of these facts, I am confident nothing can be required but personal examination and inspection, to convince the most decided and most ardent adversary of slavery. It is the opportunity I have myself had of observing these facts; it is the knowledge I possess of its being the desire and intention of Her Majesty's Ministers to do everything for the benefit of these colonies which is consistent with the general welfare of the empire; it is, above all, my perception and conviction of the resident proprietors and planters having acquired a full sense of their obligation and duties towards the people, and of their having come to the conclusion that strict justice is due to the labourer as well as to the employer, and that their interests are mutual and dependent on each other, that make me confident of the rapid growth of your prosperity.' I am able to certify to the Committee, from personal and careful examination of the estate, that not only are those immigrants themselves generally improved, but there is a very sensible improvement in the creole negroes, in consequence of the example which the immigrants have set them, both in respect to their attendance at church and at the schools, and they are induced to work six days in the week by the example of the Africans, while they would not work more than four days in the week before."

Sir Charles Grey's speech.

Great advantages to be derived from the presence of Africans.

Asked to give his opinion upon the subject of the following question, viz. :

" 12929. You are aware that the island of Jamaica is comparatively thinly populated; some of the other islands are still more thinly populated; and the great difficulty is, that labourers have an opportunity by the great quantity of

unoccupied lands, either to squat or to obtain possession of the lands upon very easy terms, whereby they make an easy subsistence, and grow a sufficient quantity of provisions to supply all their artificial wants. Supposing there were a very considerable importation of labourers, do you see any means whereby that difficulty could be prevented, by preventing the existing labourers still further pursuing that course?—He answers, “My views are these: if you were to populate Jamaica as thickly as Barbadoes is populated, you must find the difference in number between 400,000 and 5,000,000; but I do not think it is necessary, in order to obtain from the negro a fair day’s work for a fair day’s wages, to force him to so severe a point as anything like that; because the very instance which I have been reading to the Committee, shows that the creole negro follows the example of an immigrant when he finds him willing to work 10 hours in the day. On Golden Grove estate, Amity Hall, and one or two others, the labourers are working 10 hours a day, at from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d. in ordinary times of the year. That is not because St. Thomas-in-the-East is so over-populated, that physical necessity compels them to resort to the cane field, but because there is a moral influence produced upon their minds by the example of those immigrants. They do not like to see themselves beaten, and they go into the field with them.”

He is asked to explain the reason, why the railway in Jamaica was made by labourers at 1 s. a day, and there was no difficulty in obtaining a sufficient number of labourers at that rate for that purpose? He says, “I heard that statement contradicted by persons who certainly ought to have known the facts.”

Dr. Norton Shaw.

Your Committee examined Dr. Norton Shaw, a gentleman connected with Santa Cruz and Porto Rico, and acquainted, by frequent visits, with several of the West India Islands. He gave generally very interesting evidence, but in confirmation of the evidence that has been laid before Your Committee, he stated that he had a letter from a friend of his, who had an estate in Porto Rico, by the last steamer, which said the market of Porto Rico had opened its crop at 2½ dollars, or 10 s. a cwt.; and even at this low rate they could have a revenue upon their properties. “My friend K. says, he expects to make 2,000 hogsheads of 1,200 lbs. each this year.” Speaking of the public expenditure of the colonies, he said “The constitution of the Council of Jamaica is exceedingly deficient. In the House of Assembly they have several times attempted to curtail their enormous establishment. The taxation of that island is upwards of 400,000 l. per annum; and they have once or twice attempted to retrench, but they are always vetoed by the Council, the majority of whom consists of placemen appointed by the Governor; I think, seven out of ten.”

Enormous establishments in Jamaica.

He said he believed the island of Jamaica paid all the expenses of its Executive Government, with the exception of the Commander-in-Chief. They used to pay the Governor 10,000 l. It is now reduced to about 7,000 l.; it has been decreased gradually; according to the last information the witness had, his private secretary had 1,800 l. per annum, whilst the private secretary to the Prime Minister of Great Britain has but 800 l.

Barbadoes.

Being asked if he knows anything of the island of Barbadoes, he says he has been there several times. Being asked what his impression is with reference to its competency to produce sugar against the slave sugar producing countries, he answers, “I think it is very favourably placed indeed; it has a quantity of labour from a population of 120,000 or rather more. It has upwards of 30,000 agricultural labourers above the age of 18; that is a very fair proportion of labourers. I think if the island of Barbadoes cannot compete with slave labour, no place in the world can do so. Much of their present distress is owing to the almost dishonest conduct of the bank.”

Merchants and brokers charge commission on the “long price” of sugars: unfair.

He makes a complaint that the merchants and brokers charge their percentage upon the long price instead of the short price of sugar.

ST. KITT'S.

RESIDENT AND NON-RESIDENT PLANTERS.

Your Committee examined Mr. Edwin Pickwoad, who represented himself to be the son of a St. Kitt's proprietor; that he had resided in the island for 18 years. This Witness was examined at very great length. Your Committee would not have thought it necessary to pay any attention to his evidence if he had not been a Witness examined at the instance of Earl Grey. They regret to say that his evidence was proved to be unworthy of credence; most of his facts being positively contradicted by Mr. Greene, who produced documentary evidence, in almost every instance, which completely rebutted the statements made by Mr. Pickwoad. Mr. Pickwoad's first and great object appeared to be to establish one of Lord Grey's great axioms, that a large portion of the distress of the British Sugar and Coffee Planting Colonies arises from the want of resident proprietors. Asked to state to the Committee what in his opinion are the chief causes which had led to the failure of the planting interest in St. Kitt's which has been so much complained of of late years, he answers, "I think it may be traced to a great variety of causes, but in my own mind I have no hesitation in saying that the principal evil with which the West Indians have had to contend has been that of absenteeism, and the total withdrawal of nearly the whole of the proprietary body. I speak particularly with respect to St. Kitt's and the neighbouring small islands; and I speak from information derived from other sources not within my own knowledge as regards the larger islands." In the island of St. Kitt's, he says, "Absenteeism prevails to a most fearful extent." He says, "A considerably larger proportion than three-fourths of the estates are managed by the agents of absentees." He has been so recently from the island that he can almost mention every one; he should say that it is so with seven-eighths; he thinks there are not more than 15 resident proprietors in the management and possession of their own properties. He says he does not think there is one resident proprietor out of the 15 in possession of their own properties whose estates are mortgaged to merchants in England. He is asked to explain the evils that arise from the necessity of employing attorneys to manage estates. He answers, "The proprietary body are not represented; it is a misfortune, perhaps, that one man having established a reputation as an attorney, represents the interests of many others; it has always been the case that there has been some one person who, very deservedly no doubt, from peculiar circumstances has been entrusted with the management and control of nearly one-third of the estates of the island." Having made those statements and others of a similar character, he proceeds to comment upon the conduct of Mr. Greene's estate, one of the best-informed Witnesses, and most skilful Planters examined by Your Committee, and takes upon himself to say, that the increase in the expenses of the Nichola Town Estate in 1837, as compared with 1836, was the consequence of Mr. Greene having left the island in the early part of 1837, and committed the estate to the management of a managing agent, whom Mr. Pickwoad gave the Committee to understand Mr. Greene's father looked upon as a notoriously bad manager, and dismissed him for mismanagement some years afterwards, as he thought he had a right to presume, and it was perfectly well known that he was a very inferior manager to Mr. Greene. He stated, that he was there for some years, he thought four or five years.

Edwin Pickwoad,
Esq.

Principal evil absenteeism.

Evils arising from employing attorneys.

Mr. Pickwoad gives evidence of the comparative cost of Sugar cultivation during slavery and during freedom; but Your Committee, for the reasons before stated, think it worthy of no attention. He is then asked, if the Navigation Laws were altered so as to give the proprietors in St. Kitt's an opportunity of employing any ships they pleased it would confer a benefit on them. To this he answers,—

Repeal of the Navigation Laws, how shown to be advantageous to St Kitts.

"As far as the Navigation Laws are concerned, I have only looked at the question upon one side, namely, how the repeal would affect the West Indians. It would have the effect, I think, of lowering our freight, which is at a most cruel height. For many years freight from St. Kitt's was 5 s. a cwt., or 5 l. a ton; this was felt to be so great a grievance that previously to emancipation a public meeting, at the instance of my father, was called, in the year 1832, and the question was discussed, and he proposed to reduce it 1 s.; an arrangement, however, was carried that it should be reduced 6 d., with a view to a moderate reduction, feeling that our interests were identical with those of the shipowners, on whom we were dependent. All I can say is, that the parties who acted then have now passed away, and they have been succeeded by another and a less influential body. A public meeting now, from the circumstances which I stated in the commencement of my examination, would not be responded to, because the attorney of a large mercantile house would not give his support to a measure which would destroy the supposed interest of his employers, because the merchants are shipowners as well, and therefore it remains at 4 s. 6 d. If from Demerara they get a freight at 2 s. 6 d., and from Jamaica for 3 s. or 3 s. 6 d., I do not think they can have any cause of complaint.

"13880. You are aware that the Navigation Laws influence Demerara as much as they do St. Kitt's; they apply as much to the one place as to the other?—Clearly."

This gentleman, at a subsequent part of his evidence, in answer to question 13978, when he is told that the evidence taken before the Committee, goes to prove that the freight this year was only 4 l. 10 s. to 5 l., and is asked whether the freight last year was not unusually high, answers, "From the island of St. Kitt's it has never been otherwise since the public meeting" (to which he had alluded); "it does not vary, unfortunately, according to the prices." He is then asked, when he draws a comparison between St. Kitt's and Demerara, whether he is not aware that while there is a very heavy drogherage in St. Kitt's, there is none in Demerara; he answers that he is not aware that there is a very heavy drogherage in St. Kitt's. He is again asked, if he knows what that drogherage is; he answers:

Mr. Pickwood's estimate of the cost of drogherage in St. Kitt's.

"4 s. 2 d. per hogshead. The island is only 15 miles long; but as an evidence of the high rate of freight, there is always a premium given to independent estates, estates which are not bound to ship to any particular interest; they will send 10 miles for your sugar, and give you a guinea a hogshead.

"13981. Charging you the usual freight, they will pay you, under the rose, a guinea premium?—Not under the rose; they proclaim it; the more it is known the more customers they have. Mr. Greene will not give that, because he has a supply of his own.

"13982. The seeking ships will offer 1 l. a ton for freights?—Yes; their bill of lading is made out at 4 s. 6 d. a cwt., and they will pay the drogherage. *I have received it 20 times*, and so has every proprietor of an independent estate; those transient ships will pay the drogherage, and give you a guinea a hogshead for as many hogsheads as you choose to give them."

Mr. Pickwood pledges his word as a resident at St. Kitt's, that freights have never been under 4 l. 10 s.

In answer to an observation made to him by the Chairman, that he has stated that the universal freight for St. Kitt's was 4 l. 10 s. a ton, whilst the Chairman stated he held in his hand a paper signed by Mr. Liggins, stating that he has for a great many years received consignments from St. Kitt's, and never yet paid more than 4 l. a ton; the Witness answers, "It has been 4 l. 10 s., and I will pledge my word as a resident at St. Kitt's, that it has never been under that amount. I will appeal to every bill of lading, and to every West India merchant. I cannot undertake to say that the contrary has never happened, *but a bill of lading has never been filled up with less than that amount.*" In further cross-examination, the Witness is asked if he knows who was the agent who succeeded Mr. Greene. He answers, "Mr. Davy." He is asked again whether it was not Mr. Greene's own brother; he says "No." He is then asked, and answers these questions:

Mr. Davy succeeded Mr. B. Buck Greene.

"14019. Did

"14019. Did not Mr. Greene's brother go out in 1837-38?—Mr. Greene had a younger brother upon that estate.

"14020. You do not even know whether it was Mr. Greene's brother or not, do you?—Yes, I do. It is very immaterial whether it was Mr. Greene's brother or not. Mr. Greene was a gentleman who had established in the island the greatest reputation as a planter. Mr. Greene's brother, I am sure, cannot be quoted as a planter; his father recalled him also; I suppose not because he was very successful in the estates. I did not, however, myself, allude to those documents. They were brought before my notice for the first time to-day; whoever the person was, whether it was Mr. Greene's brother or Mr. Davey, both of whom were recalled, neither of them enjoyed anything like the reputation of Mr. Benjamin Buck Greene; and there can be no doubt that if he had continued in the management of that estate the result would have been very different."

We now call the attention of The House to the answers of Mr. Benjamin Buck Greene. In answer to the allegation, that the increased expenses in 1837, as compared with 1836, upon the Nicola Town estate, arose from his successor, Mr. Davey, being a bad manager, he says:

St. Kitt's.
Resident and non-resident proprietors' answer to Mr. Pickwood.

"In the first place, Mr. Davey was not my successor; I was succeeded by my brother, Mr. Henry Charles Greene, in the management of that estate, and he continued in the management of it until August 1840. Mr. Davey was on the Nicola Town estate, as overseer, for the first five months, I think, of 1837; my brother then promoted him to the management of the Farm estate, upon the other side of the island. As to the increased expenses of 1837, as compared with 1836, that is to be accounted for by the hurricane which occurred on the 2d of August 1837."

1st. Mr. Davey not his successor.

Hurricane, not mismanagement, the cause of increased expenses in 1837.

He goes on to state that his brother, until he died in 1840, continued the manager of the estate, and up to that period conducted the estate with great ability. On his brother's death, Mr. Diggins took charge of that estate in August 1840, but Mr. Greene continues: "But we had such confidence in Mr. Davey as a manager, (he was then on one of the estates under our charge), that we sent out a power of attorney to Mr. Davey to take possession of the Nicola Town estate, and to manage it from that time." He adds, "Mr. Davey was for about a year or a year and a half one of my managers, and I therefore placed him under my brother; I intended to promote him as soon as an opportunity occurred, because I considered he was a very good manager and an industrious man. Mr. Pickwood stated that my brother was recalled; that is not the case, for he died upon the estate." Mr. Greene afterwards goes on to state that at a later period Mr. Davey was dismissed; they became generally dissatisfied at the bad working of the free labour system, and they thought a change of management might be desirable; but he said that he does not know but what he might have been wrong in dismissing Mr. Davey, for he does not believe they got a better manager afterwards. Mr. Greene then says, speaking of Mr. Davey, "But in confirmation of the opinion that he was not a notoriously bad manager, I would mention that Messrs. Manning & Anderson, soon after his dismissal, purchased an estate expressly to give Mr. Davey the management of it." With reference to Mr. Pickwood's statement, that the maintenance of slaves cost about 1,000*l.* a year, and he thinks that with that sum the Godwin estate could be worked so as to produce 140 hogsheads a year, Mr. Greene answers, "Mr. Pickwood did manage his own estate; I believe Mr. Edwin Pickwood managed the estate for his mother, which he calls 'our large family estate.'" We shall see what 'our large family estate' makes. "It is one of the largest in the island." He says, "I have got returns during Mr. Pickwood's management, and I may just as well say that I have his original accounts in my pocket, signed by himself, from which this statement that I am now going to put in has been extracted."

Mr. Davey a very good manager.

Statement extracted from Mr. Pickwood's own accounts, signed by himself.

ST. KITT'S.

GODWIN ESTATE.

STATEMENT of CULTIVATION, EXPENSES, and CROPS, during the Management of the Estate by Mr. Edwin Pickwood.

	Labour.	Other Island Expenses.	Total Island Expenses.	Supplies from England.	Total Expenses.	Old Cattle, and Sundries Sold in the Island.	Net Expenses.	Sugar Made.	Equal to, in Tons Weight.	Punchons Molasses.	Punchons Rum.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	Hhds.	Tons.	Puns.	Puns.
1838 - - - - -	331	1,534	1,865	220	2,065	267	1,818	50	37	18	15
1839 - - - - -	750	1,106	1,856	360	2,216	19	2,197	74	54	31	17
1840 - - - - -	744	1,287	2,031	416	2,447	96	2,421	40	36	19	12
Average of Three Years of Expenses - - - }	-	1,300	1,917	332	2,240	-	2,145				
Crop for the year 1841, planted under Mr. Pickwood's management - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	18	13	6
Average of Four Years' Crops - - - - }	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	36	20	13
<p>Allowing 4<i>l.</i> 10<i>s.</i> per ton upon the sugar for the rum and molasses, the average cost of production will be 55<i>s.</i> 2<i>d.</i> per cwt.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Average expenses of three years - - - - - £. 2,145</p> <p style="text-align: right;">£. 4. 10<i>s.</i> per ton on 36 tons - - - - - 162</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>1,983</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Average production of sugar, 36 tons, or 55<i>l.</i> 3<i>s.</i> a ton.</p>											
From 12 August to 31 December 1837 - - - - -	-	420	420	1,368	1,788	13	1,775	45	33	22	24

Average production under the resident's management, 36 tons; ditto cost, 55*s.* 2*d.* per cwt.

"16608. Taking Mr. Pickwood's own estimate of the expenses, he would be enabled to produce sugar, he said, in competition with slave-grown sugar?—I have made a calculation of the rate which it would cost Mr. Pickwood; Mr. Pickwood stated not only that, but that with 1,000*l.* a year spent upon labour in that estate, he could produce at the present moment at the rate of 140 hogsheads of sugar per annum; although, when he managed it before, he did not produce 50.

"16609. Those were hogsheads of 14 cwt.?—His hogsheads averaged 14½; his father's averaged 12½; therefore, the 140 hogsheads will weigh in round numbers 100 tons; the labour would cost 10*l.* per ton. Other island expenses, which averaged during Mr. Pickwood's management 1,309*l.* per annum, I allow him a reduction, on to 1,200*l.*, although it is a much larger crop; that will be 12*l.* per ton. Supplies from England upon a moderate calculation, for such a crop, for coals, &c., I put at 250*l.* a year, which is 2*l.* 10*s.* a ton, cost in St. Kitt's 24*l.* 10*s.* per ton; add thereto for freight, insurance, and sale charges 7*l.* 10*s.* per ton, that will leave it at 32*l.* a ton in bond; but from that we must deduct the value of the rum and molasses which are obtained from that crop, which I also estimate at 4*l.* 10*s.* per ton. That leaves a net cost for the sugar laid down in London of 27*l.* 10*s.* to compete against slave-labour sugar, which you will have to do if this Act of 1846 stands, to be put down in London at a great profit to the Brazilian and Cuban at 18*l.* a ton."

Mr. Pickwood's hogsheads only 12 cwt. instead of 20 cwt., as positively asserted by him

"16612. Now I come to the hogsheads; Mr. Pickwood distinctly speaks of "his hogsheads as being equal to tons of 20 cwt."?—Yes.

"16613. Have you got an absolute statement upon that head?—I have.

"16614. Is that the fact?—Certainly not; I have taken Mr. Pickwood's own figures in the statement I have just made. In his father's time I have a letter from Messrs. Evan Baillie, Sons & Company, of Bristol, who had the consignment of that property from 1827 to 1834, and I find the average weight of their hogsheads would be under 12 cwt. and a quarter."

Mr.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON SUGAR AND COFFEE PLANTING. 147

Mr. Greene then went on to show how much more Mr. Pickwood's estate produced under the management of the non-resident house of Greene and Company than it had done under his own.

"16616. Can you put in a comparative statement of what Mr. Pickwood's estate produced under your management?—I can. The Godwin estate came into the possession of Benjamin Greene & Son, on the 21st September 1840, as having the management of the property; we were not in possession. Mr. Davey managed that estate for the first three or four months. Late in 1840 or early in 1841, I cannot recollect which, Mr. Diggins then had charge of the property, and has had it ever since. I will put in a statement showing the expense incurred upon the Godwin estate from 1841 to 1847, both inclusive, from which it appears that the total net expenses averaged 1,607*l.*, producing 67 hogsheads of sugar, or 49 tons upon the average; I deduct from that the value of the rum and molasses, at the rate of 4*l.* 10*s.* a ton upon the sugar, in the same way that I did upon Mr. Pickwood's crop, leaving a net cost upon the average of six crops of 1,387*l.*, which divided over 49 tons, give 28*l.* 6*s.* per ton."

The House will remember that this estate in the hands and under the management of the resident, Edwin Pickwood, Esq., produced on an average but 36 tons of Sugar, at an average cost of 55*s.* 2*d.* per cwt. (55*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* per ton); in the occupation of a non-resident, and managed by his agent in St. Kitt's, the same estate, even under the disadvantage of free labour instead of apprenticeship labour, is made to produce on an average of seven years 49 tons of Sugar, at 28*l.* 6*s.* per ton; in fact at little more than half the cost.

ST. K I T T S.

G O D W I N E S T A T E .

STATEMENT of CULTIVATION, EXPENSES, and CROPS, since the Estate has been in the hands of *Benjamin Greene & Son.*

	Labour.	Salaries.	Lumber.	Animal Stock.	Fodder.	Taxes.	Sundries.	Total Island Expenses.	Supplies from England.	Total Expenses.	Old Cattle, &c., Sold in the Island.	Net Expenses.	Sugar.	Sugar, Net Weight delivered.	Molasses.	Rum.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	Hhd.	Tons.	Puns.	Puns.
1841 - -	824	260	85	37	44	32	288	1,410	294	1,704	18	1,686	—	—	—	—
1842 - -	843	260	58	58	25	71	106	1,416	488	1,904	20	1,875	63	40	21	12
1843 - -	857	250	44	-	7	54	117	1,338	351	1,689	44	1,645	64	47	35	5
1844 - -	921	260	62	-	13	55	90	1,401	351	1,752	34	1,718	61	44	20	6
1845 - -	796	233	32	13	8	11	54	1,147	281	1,428	52	1,376	50	44	20	8
1846 - -	759	235	46	98	8	11	56	1,218	193	1,400	36	1,370	62	44	19	19
1847 - -	718	235	142	87	12	47	64	1,305	338	1,633	57	1,576	97	66	31	26
Average of the 7 Years of Expense - }	817	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,319	327	1,645	-	1,607	—	—	—	—
Average of the 6 Years' Crops }	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67	49	26	13

Average Expenditure (Net) for 7 Years	£.
- - - - -	1,607
Less Estimated Value of Rum and Molasses	220
- - - - -	£. 1,387

Average of 6 Crops - - - - - 49 Tons, or 28*l.* 6*s.* per Ton.

Having thus shown that the result was, that with Free Labour under their management when the estate fell into the hands of a non-resident proprietor, it produced more Sugar at a less cost than it had done during Slavery under the management of Mr. Pickwood, the resident proprietor, Mr. Greene goes on further to rebut Mr. Pickwood's statement.

Your House will recollect that the gist of the evidence that Mr. Pickwood came to give to the Committee was, that there were but 15 resident proprietors of estates in the island, representing but one-eighth part of the proprietary of the island, and that their estates stood in brilliant contrast to the mismanagement of those of the non-resident proprietors, from the mismanagement of whose estates Mr. Pickwood thought fit to endeavour, by his evidence, to prove to the Committee that the greater part of the ills of the island of St. Kitt's arose. Your House will see from the statement now put in that, so far from this being the case, the total number of estates under Sugar cultivation amounts to 126 ; the cane fields to 16,775 acres, the produce to 5,599 tons ; of these, 59 are occupied by residents, measuring 7,003 acres, and producing on an average of the last five years 1,492 tons of Sugar ; 67 estates measuring 9,753 acres are held by absentees, and they show an annual produce of 4,107 tons!!! The result is, that the "RESIDENTS" hold nearly half the estates, consisting of 6-15ths of the cane land, but produce only 4-15ths of the Sugar made in the Island. The "ABSENTEES" hold rather more than half the estates, with less than 9-15ths of the cane fields, and yet grow and make 11-15ths of the entire produce.

Striking contrast embracing the entire island of St. Kitt's, and showing the superior cultivation and produce of estates held by absentees.

SUMMARY of the Ownership of Estates in the Island of St. Kitt's ; distinguishing the Estates of Residents and Absentees, and those out of Sugar Cultivation.—(Prepared by Mr. Greene.)

	Total Number of Estates.	By Amalgamation Worked as	CANE LAND.	PASTURE, WASTE, and MOUNTAIN.	TOTAL.	Annual Average Pro- duce for last Five Years in Tons.
			A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	
Owned by 23 resident proprietors	37	29	6,440 3 7	3,714 0 7	10,154 3 14	1,492
Hired „ „ ditto - ditto -	15	8				
Hired by 4 residents who are not owners - - - - }	7	4				
TOTAL occupied by Residents	59	41	7,003 1 8	4,176 1 5	11,170 2 8	—
Owned and hired by Absentees	67	40	9,772 0 10	5,577 0 22	15,349 0 32	4,107
TOTAL Estates under Sugar	126	87	16,775 1 13	9,753 1 27	26,528 3 0	*5,599
Cultivation - - - - }						
Not in Cane Cultiva- } Residents -	17	-	1,120 2 31	1,298 3 2	2,419 1 33	—
tion - - - } Absentees -	6	-	568 1 8	2,327 0 32	2,895 2 0	—
(as per Statement.)						
Waste lands in the towns and several parishes of the island - }	-	-	- - -	10,007 3 24	10,007 3 24	—
(as per Statement.)						
TOTAL Estates and Acres of Land in St. Kitt's - - }	140	87	18,404 1 12	23,387 1 5	41,851 2 17	—
(Per M'Mahon's Map.)						

QUANTITY of SUGAR Imported from St. Kitt's into United Kingdom.

		Tons.	
1843 - - - - -	-	3,868	Average of the Five Years, *5,599 Tons.
1844 - - - - -	-	5,985	
1845 - - - - -	-	6,138	
1846 - - - - -	-	4,551	
1847 - - - - -	-	7,454	
TOTAL - - - - -	-	27,096	

Freights.
Complete contradiction
to Mr. Pickwood's
statement.

Mr. Benjamin Buck Greene next proceeds to contradict the truth of Mr. Pickwood's statement in respect to freights, and produces the bills of lading to their own house of the ship "Benjamin Greene," dated St. Kitt's, 28th July 1847, of which the freight was 4 s. per cwt. Next the "Catherine Greene," dated

dated St. Kitt's, September 1847, of which the freight was at the rate of 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per gallon, which is 3 l. 7 s. 6 d. per ton; third, the "Benjamin Greene," dated St. Kitt's, March 1847, 4 s. per cwt. He produces a bill of lading for the ship "Daphne," with a freight of 3 s. sterling per cwt., dated 26th March 1844; then a bill of lading of the "Diamond," dated St. Kitt's, June 1844, of 3 s. a cwt. The Witness then goes on, "No doubt when seeking ships go there, having taken out a good freight to some other colony, and are in difficulty to find a cargo, they are glad to take anything; but it seldom falls to the lot of a planter to be able to take up an entire vessel himself, seeing that he cannot ship in that island above from 10 to 15 tons at a time. I will show the Committee a list, and taking the very last ship that we had come home, there is an abstract of the manifest; the consignment to ourselves amounted to about half; for the remainder there are 23 shippers, 21 consignees, and the Sugar is shipped from 46 different estates. You have to drogher them from all parts of the island.

23 shippers, 21 consignees, and the produce of 46 different estates to be droghered all over the island at the expense of the ship.

"16644. Will you state to the Committee what the expense of their drogherage is?—The other 21 consignees would have about 220 tons between them. Mr. Pickwoad stated that the drogherage in St. Kitt's was very light; that the charge for it was only 4 s. 2 d. per hogshead. Now Mr. Pickwoad, if he knew anything at all about it, must have known that no sugar is droghered in the island for less than 8 s. 4 d. per hogshead, and those planters who like to bring their sugars to the shipping place are allowed that 8 s. 4 d. themselves, which goes in reduction of their freight.

"16645. But Mr. Pickwoad distinctly stated that it was quite usual for planters to receive a guinea a hogshead in reduction of their freight?—It does sometimes happen as I have already stated, when a seeking ship goes in and cannot get a freight, that the captain will, for a portion of her cargo, which is taken up probably by merchants in the town, give the planters a guinea a hogshead, perhaps for 50, 60, or 70 hogsheads, as the case may be, just to make her a going ship, and then when the ship is filling up he charges the same as other people. We have never given any premium whatever for sugar. St. Kitt's is open to every British ship that floats. If any British shipowners choose to send their ships there, they can; there is no monopoly; it is perfectly open to all.

"16646. Mr. Pickwoad states that he has received a guinea per hogshead 20 times for shipping his own sugar?—I should say with respect to that, that he did not do so within the last four years of his management; because I have in my possession in this room his own accounts, where if he had received such a sum, it ought to have been credited in these accounts. I have examined those accounts myself, and there is no such credit given.

"16647. Unless he was guilty then of an act of dishonesty in defrauding his principal of the guinea, he cannot have received it?—I think not; unless he has made a special remittance of that particular amount so received, it ought to have gone into his accounts. When I resided in the island I have received premiums upon sugar occasionally, but very seldom; and that has always been credited at once. My own managers credit anything they receive; if they did not, I should at once proceed against them for a robbery.

"16648. Whenever you received that, it has been in abatement of the freight?—Yes; and besides that, what right has Mr. Pickwoad to complain of the high rate of freight when he has been receiving 20 times a guinea per hogshead in reduction of that freight; does not that prove that he is receiving cheap freight from St. Kitt's?"

The witness is then asked to explain to the Committee how this freight is made up, and what are the constituent parts of the freight. He had told the Committee what the drogherage was, and that there was an export duty, which though a debt against the shipper, was paid by the shipowner at St. Kitt's. To this Mr. Greene answers:

"There is an export tax of 4 s. 6 d. currency or 2 s. 3 d. per hogshead, and in proportion for other packages, amounting together to about 6 s. currency or 3 s. per ton; this is legally chargeable upon the exporter, but the shipowner pays it; it is called the package tax, for which the shipper himself is liable. It often happens that our ships are a very long time detained in the island for loading, having to seek the freight from those various parties. I have a letter here from

Constituent items which make up the charge nominally described as "freight" in St. Kitt's.

one of our captains, Captain Holmes, of the ship 'Catherine Greene;' he say, 'I have the pleasure to inform you of the safe arrival of your good ship 'Catherine Greene' at St. Kitt's on the 19th last February, after a passage of 41 days from London. The ship, I am afraid, will not get away until the 10th June.' The 'Benjamin Greene' arrived there on the 18th of December, and on the 1st March, the date of my last letter, she had not taken in a single package of her homeward cargo. The 'Parrock Hall' arrived there on the 13th of November, and she would not sail till the 4th of March; she had not sailed at the time we received our last letters. We shall hear of her to-day most likely by the mail which has arrived.

"16650. Can you put in a comparative statement of the freight of a ship from St. Kitt's and Demerara?—Yes.

"16651. Mr. Pickwood stated, that generally freights were so much higher in St. Kitt's than in Demerara?—He did so.

Comparison of freights
between St. Kitt's and
Demerara.

"16652. Nominally I believe they are so, but practically is it not rather otherwise?—I think I can show that a freight from St. Kitt's at 4 l. 10 s. per ton is not better, if so good as a freight from Demerara at 3 l. per ton. I will take the last vessel we had from St. Kitt's, the 'Houghton-le-Spring;' she reported here on the 18th of December 1847; however, I have taken the earnings of the outward freight, not at what she actually made, because she made very little out; I put down the freight outward on the average of the amount of her tonnage to St. Kitt's at 250 l.; she received homeward freight, upon 334 hogsheads, 18 tierces of sugar, 35 puncheons of molasses, 21 barrels of sugar, making together 290 tons, at 4 l. 10 s. per ton, 1,304 l. Then there were 341 barrels weighing 33 tons, at 4 l. a ton, 132 l. Then there were 227 puncheons, 5 pipes, 11 hogsheads, and 10 quarter casks of rum, weighing 120 tons, at 3 l. 7 s. 6 d. a ton, amounting to 405 l. Primage and pierage on 443 tons, 33 l.; making the total earnings 2,124 l. upon 433 tons. From that must be deducted the expenses in St. Kitt's 337 l. I have the agent's account here showing the items of 'it, if it is necessary to put it in. Then there is the insurance, provisions, sales, wear and tear of droghers and beaching boats for the voyage, 70 l.; deducting those items from the 2,124 l., leaves 1,717 l. Now I take Demerara: the outward freight averages 500 l. the voyage; homeward freight for 443 tons at 3 l. a ton, 1,329 l.; primage 33 l.; making a total of 1,862 l.; from which must be deducted the expenses of the ship in Demerara, 90 l.; leaving a net of 1,772 l. against 1,717 l. on the St. Kitt's voyage; she having there no drogherage to pay, and no package tax to pay. Now let us see how the planter stands. In St. Kitt's the planter pays a freight of 4 l. 7 s., from which we must deduct the package tax paid by the ship instead of the shipper, 3 s. In Demerara it is the practice for the owner of an estate to send schooners for the purpose of taking his supplies from the ship when she arrives, and carrying alongside that ship her sugars for her homeward voyage; that cannot be estimated at less than 9 d. a cwt., or 15 s. a ton, and the additional cost of freight for his supplies at 10 s. a ton. The homeward freight of 3 l. leaves the Demerara planter really a charge of 4 l. 5 s., against the St. Kitt's of 4 l. 4 s.

"16653. Deducting from the St. Kitt's freight the same charges that in Demerara are paid by the shipper, how would the freights stand, deducting drogherage, export duty, additional freight for his supplies 10 s., and the package tax 3 s.:—It would leave the St. Kitt's man 2 l. 19 s. against 3 l. in Demerara. The freight upon coals charged to St. Kitt's is only 8 s. a hogshead; the hogshead occupies a ton and a half of room; that is to the estate which ships sugars in return. But we decline to take coals at such a freight, if we are not to take sugars in return."

He is then asked,—

"16655. Do you know anything of the freights to Cuba?—I do.

Freights from Cuba.

"16656. I believe you sent a ship there yourself?—We sent the 'Scourfield' to Cuba; not succeeding in getting a cargo in Jamaica, we directed her to go to Cuba; we wrote to our agents, Messrs. T. C. Burnham & Company, to purchase for our house a cargo of sugar at certain limits; if not obtainable at those limits, she was to be let out on freight for London, on the best terms they could procure. It so happened that they could buy sugar within our limits, and therefore she did not carry the freight. But I will put in a letter from the captain of the ship, stating what the rate of freight was at that time. It is dated 'Barque Scourfield,

field, Havannah, 10th March 1847. Messrs. H. D. & Js. Blyth & Greene: Gentlemen,—Having arrived here on the 7th March, as yet I have not been able to arrange what is going to be done. The consignees have proposed for me to go to the Matanzas, saying they have sugars already purchased; which I think is an extra expense, as freights are rising. Yesterday the ‘Diadem,’ of Dundee, was chartered for 4 *l.* 12 *s.* 6 *d.* per ton, and 5 *l.* was refused by a Spanish vessel, and accepted by the ‘Zenobia,’ of Liverpool. There has been some losses lately. I may also say, in addition to the 5 *l.* freight, there is a *primage* of 5 per cent.; that makes five guineas; I believe there are instances of shippers having paid 6 *l.* from the Havannah.

“16657. Last year?—*Last year.*

“16658. You might have had five guineas freightage from Havannah, when you did bring home sugar at what freight?—The cargo was purchased for ourselves; the whole cargo was purchased on our account, and came here because it was within our own limits.

“16659. Was that purchased at Havannah?—Yes. I have Messrs. Burnham’s letter of the same date, confirming the advices, if it is necessary to put it in.

“16660. At what prices were you at the very self-same time bringing sugars home from St. Kitt’s?—It was 4 *l.* 10 *s.* some part, and the rum was 3 *l.* 7 *s.* 6 *d.* We are obliged to bring a portion of rum, otherwise they will not send the sugar.

“16661. Have you vessels engaged in the Brazilian trade?—Yes, we have two vessels now on their way there; this very ‘Houghton-le-Spring’ is on her way to Pernambuco. We shall be very well pleased indeed if we get 3 *l.* for her, although she has gone out in ballast, because at Pernambuco she will load with bags. Instead of receiving her freight upon 443 tons, as she does from St. Kitt’s, she will receive it upon about 520.

“16662. And all that difference is occasioned by the practice of the West Indians of exporting their sugar in hogsheads instead of bags?—Yes. In the first place, we carry a greater weight of tare in the West India ships for nothing; for we only get our freight upon the net weight landed; the tare amounts to upwards of 10 per cent. upon the whole cargo she has got in her.”

“16667. Why do the West Indians prefer to send their sugar in hogsheads; is it from the facility of getting coals back in them?—No, it has been the custom from time immemorial; there is a convenience perhaps in hogsheads over boxes, because you can roll a hogshead; it is so much more easily moved, more easily handled, considering its great weight, than boxes would be. Some of the Brazilian boxes are very unwieldy things, weighing 17 cwt.; and when they come here the purchasers will not give so much by 2 *s.* a cwt. for them in boxes as they will in bags.

“16668. Then, in point of fact, as between the hogshead and the chest, what the exporter loses in the extra freight he gains on this side of the water?—No; he gets a less price for his sugar if he ships it in those large cases.

“16669. The West Indian loses by exporting his sugar from the British colonies in hogsheads, because he has to pay a higher freight than if he exported it in boxes; but on the other hand, if he exported in boxes, though he would pay less freight, he would get less for his sugar on this side of the water?—If they were large boxes, similar to the Brazilian, it would be so; but if the West Indian shipped his sugar in bags, he would undoubtedly get his freight cheaper.

“16670. How are bags as compared with hogsheads?—Much more favourable to the shipper; the ship carries a much larger weight.

“16671. Is the bag or the hogshead the dearer?—I think the bag is the cheaper package.

“16673. Then, in point of fact, it would be much better for the West Indians if they would follow the example of the Brazilians, and export in bags?—*I doubt that very much; it must be dry, it must undergo the drying process, and that in the present state of our labour we could not spare.* I should also state that there is great drainage in the ship on the homeward voyage from the West Indies. I think there would be loss of weight by evaporation in drying the sugar there instead of on board by drainage. We chartered the ‘Scourfield’ last year to go to Demerara; we got for her first a freight of 50 *l.* out. We were to call at Madeira for immigrants, by which we expected to make 150 *l.* more; and we were to have 4 *l.* for her cargo home, brought alongside. The merchant who chartered the ship of us (it was a ship of 328 tons) loaded her only to her beams.

Brazil:
Advantage to the ship
of carrying Sugar in
bags instead of hogs-
heads.

Reasons why the West
Indians prefer hogs-
heads.

Bags in every way
the most advantageous
package.

Sugar must be dry to
admit of package in
bags. The West In-
dians, in the present
state of the labour
market, cannot afford
to put their Sugar
through the drying
process.

We had space for water, and there were 60 puncheons below the beams also ; yet he made upwards of 400 *l. out of the freight.*"

Mr. Greene having acquainted the Committee that he was not now nor ever had been a proprietor of any land in the West Indies, except 20 acres, which his father transferred to him to give him a qualification to sit in the House of Assembly, which he did from the latter end of the year 1830 till he left the island in 1837, stated that he was a magistrate; also that he was a special magistrate soon after the first Emancipation, till the Stipendiary Magistrates came out; he acted in that capacity for six or eight months. He is asked this question:—

" 16633. Do not you think that plenty of magistrates might be found to do the business gratuitously, without the aid of those stipendiary magistrates?— I think so; *stipendiary magistrates are a great impediment in the way of the good working of the system.*

Stipendiary Magistrates make mischief between the labourers and their masters.

" 16634. *You think that they made mischief between the labourers and the masters?—I think so.*

" 16635. That they encouraged the labourers to make the complaints and exact exorbitant wages?—*I think so.*

" 16636. And they discouraged the labourers from entering into contracts with their employers?—*They did. When I say they did, I will speak of one by whom I had to get my contracts sanctioned; he did sanction them, because he was bound by law to do it.*

" 16637. He could not help himself, but threw obstacles in the way?—*He did.*"

Mr. Greene, in his first examination, had stated, upon the authority of a Parliamentary Return, moved for by Mr. Hawes (No. 300), that the average price of Brazil Sugar was,

										s.	d.
Average prices of Brazil Sugar in bond.	In 1842	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	3
	1843	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	2
	1844	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-
	1845	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	5

Giving an average of 18*s.* 2½*d.*; whilst the higher price in 1845, he said, was to be accounted for by the hurricane and drought that took place in Cuba in that year. Your House will learn from Mr. Woodhouse's Sugar Chart, that in the same years the prices of Yellow Havannah Sugar were,

										s.	d.
Average prices of Havannah Sugar in bond.	In 1842									19	6½
	1843									21	1½
	1844									19	3
	1845									23	-½

Giving an average for the four years of 20*s.* 8½*d.*

And yet, low as those prices would be for Free-labour Sugar, and ruinous to the British colonies, Mr. Greene was able to show that they were sufficiently remunerative to stimulate the extension of Sugar cultivation in Cuba; that the exportation of Sugar from Havannah and Matanzas had made the following progressive but gigantic strides:—

										Tons.
Rapid progress of Sugar cultivation in Cuba, under the above prices.	1831	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80,500
	1836	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100,000
	1838	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	122,000
	1840	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	141,500
	1844	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	171,000
	1845, reduction, in consequence of the drought and hurricane to	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	73,000
	1846, a rally to	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	162,000
	1847, a rally to	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	203,000
	Whilst the total export of Cuba, in 1847, was	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	265,000
	And in the coming year they are expected to export	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	280,000

Mr.

Mr. Greene, in his second examination, produced an extract from the New Orleans Delta, headed "The Sugar Crop," arrived by the last packet, which says, "It is estimated by competent judges that the total crop of Louisiana will exceed the crop of last year by at least 100,000 hogsheads, and the increase in molasses will exceed that of sugar. The total yield of sugar this year is estimated at 240,000 hogsheads, which, at 50 dollars per hogshead, (10*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* lower than a fair average) amounts in value to 12 millions of dollars. It is said that the molasses pays the expenses of the crop; if so, the above is a very handsome profit." Mr. Greene observes upon this that the American hogshead is only about half a ton; and Mr. Greene's conclusion from this great increase in the United States' crop to the amount of 50,000 tons is, that there will be more Cuba and Brazilian Sugar at liberty to come to Europe; whilst from the disturbed state of the Continent he expects that Brazilian and Cuban Sugars will come to this country, and hang over the market for British Sugar instead of going straight to the Continent, and that the probable result will be the fears that the prices of British Sugar, instead of rising are likely to fall, and that ultimately the importation of Foreign Sugar will be very much larger this year than it was last. Mr. Greene concludes by producing a Comparative Statement of the value of the Sugars imported from the British West Indies in the year 1814; in the year 1830 and in the year 1847, with an estimate of what the value will be in the year 1848, which Your Committee here insert.

Estimated increase of Louisiana crop, 50,000 tons in 1848.

American hogshead 10 cwt.

More Cuba and Brazil Sugar at liberty consequently to come to England.

Analysis by Mr. Greene of Mr. Marshall's Statement.

1830.

MARSHALL'S STATEMENT of the Value of *West India* Imports comprises the following Items.

ARTICLES.	QUANTITY.	VALUE.	AMOUNT.
Sugar - - - - - tons	195,631	25 <i>l.</i>	4,890,786
Coffee - - - - - "	12,259	46 <i>l.</i> 13 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>	586,924
Cocoa - - - - - "	328		
Rum - - - - - gals.	752,799	2 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>	787,827
Molasses - - - - - tons	12,471	12 <i>s.</i>	149,652
Cotton - - - - - lbs.	3,429,247	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i>	107,880
Pimento - - - - - tons	1,558	51 <i>l.</i> 6 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>	79,963
Ginger - - - - - cwt.	4,105	3 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i>	14,367
Cochineal - - - - - lbs.	111,745	9 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>d.</i>	51,682
Indigo - - - - - "	87,285	5 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	24,003
10 other articles - - - - -	-	-	65,000
Total for 1830 - - - <i>£.</i>			6,758,084
1829 - - - <i>£.</i>			8,212,593
1828 - - - <i>£.</i>			8,907,756
1827 - - - <i>£.</i>			9,428,209

SUPPLEMENT No. I. TO EIGHTH REPORT FROM THE

TOTAL VALUE of *West India* Produce Imported into the United Kingdom in 1847.

ARTICLES.	QUANTITY.	Value in Bond.	Amount.	Of which is—				DUTY.
				Freight.		Insurance, Landing, and Sale Charges.		
				Rate.	Amount.	—	Amount.	
	Tons.		£.		£.		£.	£. s. d.
Sugar - - -	189,457 (as per Statement.)	- -	4,380,980	4 l.	636,228	3 l.	478,671	14 - -
Molasses - - -	28,000	12 l.	336,000	- -	112,000	28s. 4d.	39,700	5 5 -
Coffee - - -	3,325	45 l.	149,625	5 l.	16,825	3 l.	9,975	38 6 8
Cocoa - - -	1,600	44 l.	66,000	4 l.	6,000	3 l.	4,500	18 13 4
Pimento - - -	500	42 l.	21,000	7 l.	3,500	3 l.	1,500	5 - -
Rum, Jamaica - -	Gals. 1,800,000 (average 30 p' ct. o.p.)	4 s.	360,000	5 d.	37,500	2 d.	15,000	- 8 10
„ Leeward Islands	1,800,000 (average 10 p' ct. o.p.)	3s. 6d.	225,000	4½ d.	33,750	- -	15,000	- 8 10
TOTAL - - -			5,494,555	- -	846,613	- -	564,346	
Freight - - - - -				£.	846,613	£.		
Insurance, &c. - - - -				£.	564,346			
					1,410,959			
TOTAL Net Produce - - - £.					4,083,596			

ESTIMATE, 1848.

TOTAL VALUE of *West India* Produce Imported into the United Kingdom, 1848.

ARTICLES.	QUANTITY.	Value in Bond.	Amount.	Of which is—			
				Freight.		Insurance, Landing, and Sale Charges.	
				Rate.	Amount.	—	Amount.
	<i>Tons.</i>		<i>£.</i>		<i>£.</i>		<i>£.</i>
Sugar - - - - -	135,000	23 l.	3,105,000	4 l.	540,000	3 l.	405,000
Molasses - - - - -	24,000	12 l.	288,000	- -	96,000	28s. 4d.	34,000
Coffee - - - - -	2,800	44 l.	122,200	5 l.	14,000	3 l.	9,400
Cocoa - - - - -	1,200	- -	52,800	4 l.	4,800	- -	3,600
Pimento, Ginger, &c. - - -	- - -	- -	52,000	- -	5,000	- -	3,500
Rum, Jamaica - - - -	<i>Gals.</i> 1,800,000 (average 30 p' ct. o.p.)	4 s.	260,000	5 d.	27,083	2 d.	10,833
„ Leeward Islands - - -	1,700,000 (average 10 p' ct. o.p.)	1s. 10d.	155,920	4½ d.	31,875	4½ d.	14,166
TOTAL - - - - -			4,032,820	- -	716,758	- -	
				<i>£.</i>	<i>£.</i>		
Freight - - - - -				716,758			
Insurance, &c. - - - -				470,499			
					1,188,257		
TOTAL Net Produce - - - £.					2,844,563		

STATEMENT of MONTHLY IMPORTS of *West India* SUGAR in the United Kingdom, Gazette Average Price in Bond, and Total Value, for the Year 1847.

MONTH ENDING	IMPORTS.	Gazette Average Per Ton.	AVERAGE.	VALUE IN BOND.	For the Quarter.	
					Imports.	Value.
1847:	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>	<i>£.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>£.</i>
February 5 -	2,946	34 3 4	84 9 3 ½	100,655	12,845	438,982
March „ -	3,211	35 17 -		115,115		
April „ -	6,868	33 7 6		223,212		
May „ -	10,800	32 2 6	30 2 8	346,950	51,562	1,529,960
June „ -	18,193	30 3 4		546,822		
July „ -	22,569	28 2 -		634,188		
August „ -	18,988	25 16 -	26 1 -	489,782	57,258	1,492,814
Sept. „ -	10,228	26 2 -		266,950		
October „ -	28,042	26 5 -		736,102		
Nov. „ -	14,170	23 6 8	23 1 6 ½	330,630	37,897	875,174
Dec. „ -	11,890	23 3 -		275,253		
1848:						
January 5 -	11,887	22 15 -	-	269,291	37,897	875,174
	59,557			4,386,980		
					£.	4,386,930
Average - - -		£. 28. 8s. 8½d.				

STATEMENT of the MONTHLY CONSUMPTION of *West India* SUGAR in the United Kingdom, Gazette Average Price in Bond, and Total Value, for the Year 1847.

MONTH ENDING	Consumption.	Gazette Average Per Ton.	VALUE IN BOND.	Consumption of the Quarter.	Value of the Quarter.
1847:	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>	<i>£.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>£.</i>
February 5 -	9,275	34 3 4	282,729	17,843	614,272
March „ -	4,935	35 17 -	176,920		
April „ -	4,633	33 7 6	154,623		
May „ -	7,302	32 2 6	237,466	31,865	948,271
June „ -	11,183	30 3 4	337,354		
July „ -	13,290	28 2 -	373,449		
August „ -	15,182	25 16 -	391,093	43,390	1,180,361
Sept. „ -	11,955	26 2 -	312,025		
October „ -	16,953	26 5 -	426,841		
Nov. „ -	10,509	23 6 8	245,210	36,032	831,419
Dec. „ -	13,151	23 3 -	304,446		
Jan. 5 -	12,372	22 15 -	281,763		
	129,180		£. 3,524,323		£. 3,524,323

Exports of Raw and
Refined Sugar from
the British West Indies
during Slavery.

Mr. Greene also put in a statement of the quantity of sugar re-exported from the United Kingdom in the years 1807 to 1831 inclusive, distinguishing raw and refined, from which it will be seen that so long as the British colonies had the advantage of slave labour they were not only able to supply the whole of the British market, but to send a surplus, varying throughout that period of from 21,784 tons up to 76,343 tons; and though it is true that, about the year 1818 or 1820, a discovery was made in refining Sugar, which gave, practically, under the drawback, a bounty to the refiners, which changed the course of trade, and operated so as to cause the Sugar to be exported in a refined state, instead of a raw state, it will be seen that as late as the year 1818, 13,380 tons of British Plantation Sugar were exported in a raw state out of 74,031 tons. The total exports, after deducting East India and foreign raw and refined from the whole amount of raw and refined Sugar exported from the United Kingdom; and even after that discovery, whereby the refiners were enabled to overreach the Government in the drawback, in 1823, 7,168 tons of raw Sugar were exported. The following is the Table exhibiting these facts:—

QUANTITY in Tons of SUGAR Re-Exported from United Kingdom in the Years 1807 to 1831, inclusive; distinguishing Raw and Refined.

Years.	British Plantation, or West India Raw.	East India.	Foreign.	Refined.	Equivalent of Refined to Raw; 34 cwt. Raw equal to 30 cwt. Refined.	Total Exported.	Deducting East India and Foreign from the Total Exports, exhibits Total Amount of West India Exports, as under
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1807	29,842	1,090	2,133	20,698	35,186	68,182	35,020
1808	12,216	2,468	3,049	16,362	27,816	45,534	40,042
1809	13,816	844	21,011	23,036	39,162	74,833	72,970
1810	4,524	353	25,966	20,660	35,122	65,963	39,642
1811	13,790	202	11,958	5,050	8,585	34,544	21,784
1812	15,540	348	17,827	14,235	24,192	57,909	39,734
1813	21,525	500	20,500	22,500	38,750	80,775	50,775
1814	27,603	2,065	23,147	27,767	47,203	100,105	74,893
1815	24,558	3,421	15,571	30,462	51,786	95,385	76,343
1816	18,857	5,102	9,565	29,209	49,655	83,181	68,514
1817	12,913	4,774	6,647	34,854	59,252	83,587	72,166
1818	13,380	5,516	5,434	35,559	62,451	84,981	74,031
1819	10,918	4,411	5,135	26,261	44,643	65,169	55,663
1820	8,973	9,330	6,915	33,978	57,762	82,977	66,732
1821	7,460	7,364	9,316	32,267	54,855	78,996	62,316
1822	8,549	5,123	6,885	18,739	31,856	52,415	40,407
1823	7,168	5,267	8,836	22,906	38,944	60,216	46,113
1824	4,403	7,354	10,899	21,703	38,997	58,546	41,493
1825	4,256	2,968	8,058	19,489	33,182	49,010	38,384
1826	5,115	4,810	5,294	17,178	29,903	44,213	34,314
1827	2,046	5,528	5,198	30,453	34,270	47,547	36,821
1828	2,529	8,927	8,016	22,892	38,831	57,403	41,360
1829	810	2,808	8,047	23,777	40,421	55,303	43,348
1830	668	6,590	8,316	30,378	51,544	67,287	52,561
1831	540	8,114	14,382	29,091	49,456	70,492	

MAURITIUS.

SINCE Your Committee closed their evidence, certain papers have been laid before them, of which the following are extracts. The first is a letter, dated from the Emigration Agent's Office at Calcutta, dated the 12th of August 1847, from Mr. Caird, Emigration Agent, addressed to Captain Rogers, Protector of Immigrants at Calcutta: "I have the honour to request that you will inform the Government of Bengal that about 250 men have come up from the Madras Presidency with the intention of emigrating to Mauritius; but having no females amongst them, I beg the favour of your ascertaining whether the Government would have any objection to grant a licence for a ship to carry 218 of those men to Mauritius unaccompanied, they having expressed their *disinclination to take any Calcutta women with them*. The remaining number will be sent in a ship which takes emigrants to this presidency.

Papers on immigration to the Mauritius from Madras and Calcutta.

Disinclination of Madras Coolies to Calcutta women.

"In May last I dispatched in the ship 'Fyzil Currim' 62 Madras men, making altogether about 312 who have come up since March of this year."

Your Committee notice this Despatch to show the great anxiety of the Madras men to get to the Mauritius, having travelled so many hundreds of miles, careless of the longer passage so long as they could get to the Mauritius.

Mr. Wilson, the West India Emigration Agent at Madras, on the 7th of September 1847, writes, that whilst the late Act of the Government of India, authorising the recommencing of emigration from Madras to Mauritius, limits the season for that emigration from Madras to the period intervening between the 1st of April and the 31st of August; the letter of Mr. Dick, the Colonial Secretary of Mauritius, ordering him to forward Madras emigrants to Mauritius, only reached him at Madras on the 31st of August, the very day on which, by the Act of the Government of India, the season for emigration ceased. Mr. Caird, in a letter of the 28th of August 1847, writes, that at the present time the freight per bag for rice is fully equal to a freight of 8*l.* a head for Coolies; and on the subject of the advantages of employing European surgeons which had been recommended to him, he writes, "I beg leave to state that it is with great difficulty three or four can be procured in the cold season for West Indies ships, and from what I have seen of them they certainly are not more competent to the charge of Coolies than a well-educated native doctor. Few of them have had any practice in this country, nor do they know a word of the native language, a most serious objection to their employment, in my opinion."

Difficulty of obtaining European surgeons; native surgeons quite as useful.

He says, "My opinion is, that the people will readily emigrate when they are pressed for money, or when their crops have failed, but that no advantages which can be held out to them are sufficient to induce them to leave their homes, unless they have urgent reasons for so doing. *In a season like the past, when they had a most abundant rice crop, sufficient hands were not procurable to cut it, and I observed myself rice spoiling on the ground for want of hands to reap it.*"

Sir William Gomm writes, on the 29th of October 1847, "It is indisputable, that the regulation of exacting the monthly tax from all those who are not engaged in the great agricultural labour, has had the effect of bringing back numbers of stragglers and loose hangers-on upon the town into such service, and has thus materially increased the amount of work going on in the canes, while it does not appear to have had the effect of sensibly diminishing numbers already engaged in other regular employ."

Sir William Gomm's Despatch, stating that the monthly tax on labourers not engaged in sugar cultivation has increased the industry of the labourers.

On the 3d of November Sir William Gomm writes upon the subject of the demand for a larger supply of labourers:—

"An additional consideration of much weight is the approach of the period from which a large proportion of the Indian labouring population will acquire a title to the free return-passage to their homes, by their completion of their five years' indentured residence in the colony; in what numbers availing themselves of the privilege is uncertain; but they will probably be considerable.

The period is approaching when a considerable number of Coolies may be expected to claim their return passage.

"The crop progress will again be an abundant one.

The present crop in the Mauritius is an abundant one.

"The Agricultural Committee of the Society of Arts and Sciences held their second annual exposition of Sugars and competition for prizes on Thursday last the 28th ultimo, and the result was highly satisfactory and encouraging.

There has been great improvement in cultivation and manufacture.

"A marked improvement was observable in the mode of cultivation and in the quality of the produce within the last twelvemonth, while it exhibited an excess of production far surpassing that of any preceding year."

On the 1st of December 1847, Sir William Gomm, having learnt the bad tidings from England of the failure of the principal London houses connected with the Mauritius, through whose resources alone, he says, the Sugar cultivation of the island has been maintained and carried on to the height at which it presents itself at that time, writes :—

The labourers on such estates as may be obliged to reduce their establishment on account of the failures will be employed on public works.

"Should the immediate result of the receipt of such crushing intelligence be the dismissal of no inconsiderable number of labourers from estates whose administrators are no longer in a condition to maintain them, it must be the study of the Government to furnish employment for as many as possible by the extension of repair to the public roads largely requiring it throughout the island, and immediate prosecution of public works sanctioned, but waiting the opportunity for entering upon; and for meeting these additional expenses, the Treasury is happily at this hour amply provided."

Lord Grey approves of such application of labourers thrown out of employment

In answer to this Despatch, on the 4th of March 1848, Lord Grey writes :—

"With reference to its last paragraph, I have to observe that, if it should be found absolutely necessary to provide temporary employment for those labourers who may be thrown out of work, this cannot be so well accomplished in any other way as by repairing the public roads."

Your House will therefore see that one of the first effects of the ruin of the Sugar cultivation of the Mauritius would be to create a new sphere for the repetition of the Public Works, which proved so costly to England in the winters of 1847 and 1848, in Ireland.

TRINIDAD.

The Liberated Africans who arrived per "Growler" were landed in a most wretched state

ON the 18th of January 1848, Lord Harris writes from Trinidad to Lord Grey, with reference to the unsatisfactory condition in which the Liberated Africans lately landed in that colony from Her Majesty's ship "Growler" were found to be. It was discovered immediately on their landing that they were all labouring under dysentery and itch, and the greater number were much emaciated. He then expresses his surprise that Governor Macdonald, with reference to those Africans, should, in a Despatch received by the "Growler," state, *"That it affords me the greatest satisfaction, therefore, that such unexpected good fortune was enabled me to dispatch her to your Lordship with a full complement of as fine a body of emigrants as ever left this colony."* Your Lordship will perceive by the return which accompanies this Despatch, that they in no way answered Governor Macdonald's description on their arrival here; in fact, *a more miserable, debilitated, and I may add, loathsome set of creatures I never saw, and must be a long time before any of them can be so far recovered as to be of any service to the estates on which they have been placed."* Your House will reflect that in this importation of Liberated Africans from Sierra Leone, one of the boons, which we have lately heard so much of, offered to the British West Indians. Out of the 395 negroes thus landed, it appears that no less than 90 are since dead.

Out of 395 Liberated Africans landed, 90 died.

BARBADOES.

GOVERNOR REID, on the 8th of February 1848, writing from Barbadoes, encloses a copy of his speech, and the reply to it from the Assembly, which he had just received from the Council, of which the following are extracts from both. The first is an extract from the Governor's speech to the Assembly. Having expressed his deep regret at the recent pecuniary losses which had befallen the island, he goes on to say,

"Twice within the year which is just concluding has this island apprehended want of food. I have never doubted but that provisions to a much greater extent should be raised here. This is a subject with which legislation cannot interfere; but there seems now to be a general conviction that very serious consequences might result from the neglect to grow a larger proportion of food. I hope it will be found consistent with the interest of individuals to cultivate more provisions within the island, so that in the absence of foreign supply you may never feel apprehensive of famine."

Necessity for growing provisions in the island of Barbadoes, so as to be independent of a foreign supply.

In the reply the Council state,

"The Council attach considerable value to your Excellency's just perception of a truth forcibly impressed upon their own convictions, 'that for agriculture to flourish, the agriculturist must be independent. To attain this state, neither energy nor enterprise, regulated by prudence, is wanting in the community; but independence to the West Indian agriculturist has been rendered almost hopeless by his premature exposure to an unequal competition with the slave produce of sugar, whilst he is at the same time shackled with restrictions, which give a vantage-ground to his opponents. The stern reality of a daily depreciation of property in the British West India colonies, in juxtaposition with the doubled and increasing efforts of the slave proprietors to procure, at enormous sacrifices, additional slave labour, is alone significant of the disastrous fate which must await our agriculturists in the impending contest between the free and slave grower of sugar, unless, upon a dispassionate and impartial consideration of his case, the British Government shall interpose such a measure of relief as will enable him to vie with the slave grower of sugar."

This paper is dated, Council Chambers, 18th January 1848, signed by John S. Gaskin, the President of the Council.

Writing on the 26th of February 1848, Governor Reid says,

"I think it right, however, to state in general terms, that from all I learn, the cost of making sugar by free labour is greatly beyond the cost of making it by slave labour. My opinion is, that sugar cultivation by free labour cannot yet withstand competition on equal terms with slave labour, and that freedom should be nursed by protection for a considerable time to come. How long that time should be, your Lordship will understand that I cannot say. If there be no protection, the cultivation of sugar will be further given up in Grenada, and it will dwindle in all the Windward Islands, excepting Barbadoes."

Governor Reid's opinion that the cost of making sugar by free labour is greatly beyond that by slave labour.

"Whilst travelling in these islands, and amongst estates falling off in production, I felt a conviction that without protection the most serious result for humanity would not be loss of sugar, but that the consummation of the greatest act of human legislation, the abolition of slavery, will be retarded, and perhaps endangered."

Without protection the abolition of slavery will be retarded, and perhaps endangered.

In a subsequent Despatch, dated Windward Islands, Barbadoes, 8th March 1848, Governor Reid encloses a number of statements showing the comparative cost of the cultivation of Sugar in the different Windward Islands. In Barbadoes he sends a statement taken from the estate books of Easy Hall, certified by Mr. Pilgrim, a Police Magistrate, of the cost of making a cwt. of Sugar from the year 1828 to the year 1846, from which it seems that for the six years preceding the years of Apprenticeship the cost of making a cwt. of Sugar averaged 5s. 1d., whereas for nine years of cultivation by Free Labour the cost was 15s. 6d. He sends at the same time a table showing the cost of making a cwt. of Sugar during several years by Slave Labour in the island of St. Vincent. By those Returns it varies from 5s. 1d. to 6s. He at the same time sends a statement showing the cost of raising Sugar per hogshead in the island of St. Vincent on 16 estates, taking an average of three years, 1845, 1846, and 1847, and the result will be found to be an average per cwt. of 19s. 2d.

Cost of making Sugar in Barbadoes, on Easy Hall estate, during six years preceding Apprenticeship and nine years of Free Labour.

Cost of making Sugar in St. Vincent before and after Emancipation.

THE COTTON TRADE.

(In connexion with the Sugar-growing Countries.)

Mr. Burn.

The Cotton Trade.

Amount of Cotton Goods exported from Great Britain to British Sugar Plantations previous to 22 August 1846

Amount exported to Foreign Sugar Countries previous to 22 August 1846.

Amount exported to British Sugar Colonies from 22 August 1846 to 22 March 1848.

Amount exported to Foreign Sugar Countries for same dates.

Weight and Value of Cotton consumed in the Exports of the first period, and Wages, Profit, &c. to the Manufacturer and Exporter

Weight and value of Cotton in the exports for the latter period, and wages, profit, &c.

The loss of amount and profit, &c. on the export of manufactures by the Act of 1846.

Profit to people employed in Cotton manufactures by the fall in price of Sugar, and loss to them from decreased value of exports of manufactures to sugar-growing countries.

Your Committee, appointed to inquire into the present condition and prospects of the interests connected with, and dependent on, Sugar and Coffee planting in Her Majesty's East and West India possessions and the Mauritius, were of opinion that they would be guilty of a great omission in a most important branch of their inquiry if, recollecting that it was mainly at the instance of the Cotton manufacturing interests of Lancashire, excited by a desire to open the Brazil trade for their manufactures, that Parliament was induced to change its policy with respect to the admission of slave-grown Sugar, they were to neglect to investigate how far this change of policy had realized the great expectations of advantage with which the Lancashire manufacturers had flattered themselves as likely to result from the change of policy, and the admission of slave-grown Sugar into consumption in this country, in competition with the free-labour Sugar of the British Colonies; and for this purpose Your Committee called before them the Editor of Burn's Commercial Glance, a gentleman to whom successive Ministers and Chancellors of the Exchequer have paid the homage of their approbation and respect, as one of the most accurate statisticians on the subject of Cotton manufactures. Mr. Burn gave information to the Committee, derived from the most industrious research, of the deepest interest and the greatest value. He presented to the Committee a Table, by which he showed that the total value of cotton goods exported to the British West Indies, Mauritius, Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta, in the 19 months from the 22d of January 1845 to the 22d of August 1846, was 5,988,544*l.*; that in the same period the total value of goods exported to Cuba, Porto Rico, and Brazil, amounted to 2,490,776*l.*, making a sum total of 8,479,320*l.* That in the 19 corresponding months after the passing the Act of 1846, from the 22d of August to the 22d of March 1848, the total value of goods exported to the British Colonies was 4,856,286*l.*, showing a decrease of 1,132,268*l.* To counterbalance which, the exports to the slave-holding countries increased to 2,946,151*l.*, showing an increase of 455,381*l.* to balance against the larger decrease to the British Colonies; showing, as the general result, a decreased trade to the sugar-growing countries, slave holding and free, of 676,887*l.*

But Mr. Burn did not stop here, having shown to the Committee that the weight of Cotton consumed in the goods exported in the first period was 144,224,977 lbs., and that the price in the former period was 4½*d.* a lb.; that the value of the raw material was but 2,854,452*l.*, which would have to be deducted from the 8,479,324*l.*, leaving 5,624,872*l.* for wages, and profit, and working, in the period of 1845-46, whilst the price of Cotton having risen in the period between the 22d August 1846 and 22d March 1848 to 6*d.* a lb., the diminished weight of Cotton, amounting only to 124,768,590 lbs., constituted a value of 3,119,214*l.*, which, deducted from 7,802,437*l.*, the value of the manufactured goods exported in the latter period, left only 4,683,223*l.*, being a diminution of 941,649*l.* in the sum left for wages, and profit, and working, in the period of 1846-48, as compared with 1845-46; and whilst thus he showed that instead of bringing wealth and prosperity, a diminished trade and diminished amount of wages to the extent of 941,649*l.* had followed upon the passing of the Act of 1846, he went into a calculation, by which, having shown that there were employed in 1846, 617,252 hands, in 1847 there were but 451,727 hands employed in the manufacture of Cotton in England, leaving unemployed in 1847, as compared with 1846, 165,527 hands. And then he went on to show that, assuming even that the Act of 1846 had a right to take credit for the cheapening of Sugar to the extent of 1½*d.* a lb., which Your House is aware would be equal to 14*l.* a ton, and allowing that the whole 617,554 persons, employed in and out of employment, had consumed 23½ lbs. of Sugar per head per annum, they would only have gained by this reduction 144,702*l.* to set off against their loss in wages, and profit, and working, of 941,649*l.*; so that upon the balance of gain and of loss, it would seem that the Cotton manufacturers in England, in wages, profit, and working, have lost 796,947*l.*, simultaneously with the change of policy which was to confer such mighty benefits and such unbounded prosperity upon them. Now, taking the wages of the operatives at 7*s.* a week upon the

the average, 796,947*l.* would be equivalent to the wages of 18,533 operatives in full employment for 95 weeks, and for 34,976 operatives for one year. Asked if in the history of Lancashire a period had ever been known when for so very long a time so many operatives had been out of employment and working short time; he answered, he never recollected so many; that it was decidedly worse now than it was in 1840 and 1841; that they had decreased in quantity more Cotton in 1847 than they consumed altogether in 1826. That in 1826 there were only entered for home consumption 376,733 bags of Cotton; the decrease in 1847 was 441,053 bags of Cotton as compared with 1846. The greatest decrease that had ever appeared having occurred in 1839, when the decrease in the manufacture amounted to 221,605 bags of Cotton. And with respect to the state of Manchester he said, that in 1826 the casual and Irish poor amounted to but 72,362 persons, and the cost of their maintenance to 10,475*l.*, whilst in 1847 their casual and Irish poor amounted to 149,504, and the cost of their maintenance to 45,218*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* That the poor-rate in 1826 amounted to 5*s.* in the pound upon an assessment of 7-16ths only of the rental: that the poor-rate in 1846 was 5*s.* in the pound; in 1847, 4*s.* 6*d.* upon an assessment of 5-6ths of the rental. The practical result was this, that 4*s.* 6*d.* has raised in 1847, 120,000*l.*, which the guardians have already had. The Corporation have had 37,000*l.*, which the overseers have borrowed, and it will require a 1*s.* 6*d.* rate to pay it back, which will make a sum equal to something like 19*s.* 6*d.* in the pound. If, therefore, the British West Indies and Mauritius, and the sugar-growing interests in the British East Indies, present one dark picture of irrecoverable ruin, Your Committee has not the consolation of thinking that those, to benefit whom this law was passed, have reaped any profit from the change of policy which they so successfully advocated.

Great decrease in the consumption of Cotton.

Great increase of poor-rate in Manchester.

Patrick Cruikshank, Esq., was also examined. He informed the Committee that he had given a great deal of consideration to the same subject, of cane juice in a concentrated and concrete state; and he stated that if equitable rates of duty were fixed, the Planters importing it would have a much greater advantage than in making Sugar in the West Indies. And he insisted that a saving in waste and labour could be effected to the amount of 27 per cent. He stated that in his opinion if the concrete was introduced here, it should be admitted 3*s.* below Muscovado Sugar, viz. 11*s.* a cwt. He stated that those experiments had been tested by Mr. Archibald, who is at present in New Orleans; that the accounts they had received were highly satisfactory; that he had been offered 25,000 dollars, and an interest in a refinery there, to induce him to remain there for one year in order to introduce his improvements. Mr. Cruikshank was not, however, able to state what amount of refined Sugar could be got from a hundredweight of concrete. Asked if he had seen Mr. Crosley's experiment, and if he thought it was a fair test; he said he thought it showed in a very fair way the distinction between the Cuba and the Brazilian clayed Sugars and the Sugars of the British Plantations. Asked if he should be prepared to recommend from his knowledge of the subject that Mr. Crosley's test should be adopted in the classification duties which are now proposed. He said, "I think it is equitable." He was asked if he thought that anything which Mr. Archibald's patent could do, would now enable the Planters in the West India Colonies to compete with foreign sugar at present prices. He answered, "Not in itself; no doubt it, would be an advantage, but it is totally inadequate to the exigencies of the present prices." With respect to Mr. Crosley's experiment, Your Committee had him constantly before them for three weeks or more, trying his experiments on the pneumatic principle, and Your Committee are of opinion, that it appears from his evidence taken before them, that the protection hitherto supposed to have been given to Colonial Sugar by the Act of 9 & 10 Vict. has been more apparent than real, from the unsuitableness of the standard selected for the classification duties, and that the protection practically afforded by the existing duties, on ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~clayed~~ ^{clayed} amounts to no more than from 5*d.* to 3*s.* per cwt., according to the different qualities of Sugars, instead of 6*s.* as at present supposed. This evidence has been corroborated by the experiments made before the Committee by Mr. Crosley, in which he has satisfactorily proved by the pneumatic process, that the great bulk of Colonial Sugar yields, on an average, only 70 per cent. of pure product, while the greater part of the foreign

P. Cruikshank, Esq.

Concrete Sugar and concentrated cane juice.

Mr. Cruikshank's opinion of Mr. Crosley's mode of testing Sugar.

From Mr. Crosley's experiments it appears that the protection supposed to be given to Colonial Sugar has been more apparent than real.

Recommendation of the
pneumatic process of
testing Sugar.

Sugar, from its having undergone a double process of manufacture, yields from 80 to 100 per cent., making the average 90 per cent.; showing a difference of 28½ per cent. against the British Planter between the ostensible and the real protection. The Committee wish to bring the result of Mr. Crosley's experiments under the special notice of Her Majesty's Government, as they consider it but fair that the country should be correctly informed of the actual amount of protection enjoyed by the colonies; but they wish also to call their particular attention to the nature of the experiments by the pneumatic process, as their firm conviction is that it will be found a far superior mode of levying "ad valorem" duties on the different qualities of Sugar to that now attempted by means of discriminating duties, which has given rise to some complaint. It would, moreover, secure to the refiners of this country a greatly extended field for the exercise of their skill, while at the same time it would obviate altogether the necessity of investing fresh capital in the introduction of improved machinery in the colonies, which, in their present depressed state, it would be hopeless to expect. It seems, indeed, a necessary preliminary to placing the colonies in a position to compete equitably with foreign countries under equalized duties, for if these duties were levied as at present, they would confer a direct advantage upon the foreign producers, owing to the superior quality of their Sugar to that of the British Planter, who was discouraged by Legislative restrictions from improving the quality of his Sugar until a recent period, and who would now find it impossible to raise the necessary funds for doing so, even if the want of careful and continuous labour did not at present offer an insuperable objection. This system is further recommended as being simple in application, economical in practice, and as tending to make Custom-house officers thoroughly acquainted, in a short space of time, with the different qualities of Sugar. The Committee, therefore, place it before Her Majesty's Government, with the request that, if they are not satisfied with the Evidence already taken in respect to it, they would institute further inquiries as to the practicability of this test, with a view to this system being adopted.

Mr.
Charles Richardson.
Concrete Sugar.

Mr. Charles Richardson, the patentee of a process for manufacturing concrete, was examined in respect to the practicability of importing the saccharine matter of the Sugar cane in the shape of concrete made from cane juice. Your Committee would merely refer you to his evidence, inasmuch as although he spoke very confidently of its success, and of the great advantages to be obtained from it, assuming that concrete were permitted to be imported into this country at a duty of 11s. 7d., which he proved was the fair duty, Your Committee do not think the experiment had been sufficiently carried out in practice to justify them in giving any very decided opinion upon the subject.

Mr. Hardman.
Classification of Sugars.

Mr. Hardman, a witness, examined in the early part of the sittings of Your Committee, made a most grievous complaint upon the subject of the classification of duty, alleging that it had happened frequently that parcels of Sugar from the same sample, by different Custom-house officers, were charged different duties; and that it so much depended upon the eye and the feel, and the brightness or the dulness of the day, that no merchant was safe; that his Sugar under the present test, which ought to pay 14s., might be charged 4s. 8d. additional for the mistakes of the Custom-house officers; and he stated to the Committee that he had actually been obliged to spoil some of his Sugars, in order to prevent their being charged 4s. 8d., though he had been expressly prepared to meet the requirements of the Custom-house sample. And when Mr. C. Dowding, the Surveyor-general of Customs, was called to rebut the evidence of Mr. Hardman, he was obliged to acknowledge that, "*There cannot be a doubt that the difference of the day will make a difference in the appearance of the Sugar if colour were the sole guiding principle.*" Asked if colour is one of the elements upon which they calculate the quality; he answers, "*It is the first distinguishing element.*" Again asked, if an opinion has been expressed by the officers that the mode of computing the duty is not satisfactory; he answers, "*It has never been disguised that it has been an unsatisfactory mode; because it is a question of fact, it is in a great degree a matter of opinion; but taking all these things into consideration, it is astonishing how very few differences have existed.*" Asked if he knows anything about the case which was stated, that out of the same parcel of Sugar some was charged 18s. 8d. in London, and a lower duty in Liverpool; he answers, "*There was a sample came up to London, and the officer who saw*

Mr. C. Dowding.

it (*I suppose it was a dull day*) decided that it should be admitted at the lower duty; it fell, however, into my hands, and I directed that 18s. 8d. should be charged, and orders to that effect were immediately sent down to Liverpool." He was asked by the Committee whether he could give them any idea of a better method, or any improvement in the mode of taking those duties than is now adopted. He answered, "Not as long as a classification duty exists, unless it were between clayed and unclayed Sugars. *Clayed Sugar in former times paid a higher duty than Muscovado.*" Asked to define what, according to the Act of Parliament, constitutes the difference in the quality of different Sugars, under those classification laws; he answers, "*The elements of Sugars are saccharine matter, grain and colour; they constitute the term 'quality.'*" He adds, that as far as regards the grain, we judge of it *by the eye and by the feel.* He is asked, "In a case where you have decided that the colour of the Sugar entitles it to be classed at 16s. 4d. or 18s. 8d. duty upon a bright day, you might decide that it was of a lower class on a dull day?" He answers, "Not as regards sugar at 18s. 8d.; there is very little doubt upon that. The doubts generally are upon the 16s. 4d. or 14s. Of course the colour is the first element we look at; and if it is a good colour, we then subject it to other examinations."

Your Committee examined Mr. Henry Nebbs Brown, a Sugar Refiner. Mr. Brown was asked if he knows anything of any improvement which has taken place in colour and quality, within the last 20 years, in West Indian Sugar; answered, "Nothing at all; it is rather worse than better; it has been gradually going back." Asked if that is the case with respect to Mauritius Sugar; he replies, "Certainly not; I saw yesterday a sample of Mauritius Sugar as fine as I could make in my refinery."

Quality of West Indian Sugar has deteriorated.

He is asked if he ever heard of any fine quality of Sugar coming from Penang. He answers, "*Never; it is very inferior; the ground has latterly been broken up.*" He had previously said, that he supposed Province Wellesley Sugar might come in as Penang Sugar.

Penang Sugar.

This witness said, "With respect to the malt duty, I think it will be necessary to look pretty sharply after that. A bushel of barley, kiln-dried and ground with a certain quantity of Sugar, 7 or 8 lb. added to it, being the quantity that the saccharine would produce if it were malt, would be just the same as a bushel of malt; therefore that is a cheaper mode than the other, and you will lose the duty. In Belgium or France you never saw such a thing as a malt-house; and it is a most extraordinary thing, that the public should have consented to pay the tax so long." Of Beetroot Sugar, Mr. Brown said, "Mr. La Grande came over to me with a sample of his Beetroot Sugar, to know of what value it would be in our market, in order that he might send it here; the Sugar in appearance was beautiful, *but in taste it was very bad; I do not think he would be able to sell it here.*" He is asked if Beetroot Sugar sells as high as cane Sugar. He answers, "No; our Sugar is manufactured for packing and travelling, and therefore we make it as weighty as possible. The Sugar that you see in France is very light; you see a waiter bring in five knobs upon a tray; two of our knobs would weigh down the whole five. *The refined Beetroot Sugar is made from beetroot and muscovado; the treacle that comes from it is scarcely fit for blacking.*" With respect to price, he says, "I should say, quality for quality, one would be worth 50 francs, and the other 56; the cane 56 francs, and the beetroot 50 francs." Again asked, if in Belgium Beetroot Sugar does not pay 12s. a cwt., whilst Cane Sugar is 10s.; and if it would not appear, therefore, that Beetroot Sugar is very inferior; he answers, "I do not think Beetroot Sugar would be tolerated here." One of Mr. Brown's remedies for the sufferings of the West Indies was, that private sales of sugar should be done away with, and all sugar sold by public auction; and he made it a great matter of complaint that commissions were charged upon the long price instead of the short price of Sugar. He reckoned that the whole amount paid upon 250,000 tons of Sugar, at 35 £ a ton, would be 8,000,000 £, and the commissions charged would be three per cent. upon that. The whole amount paid for commission would be about 245,000 £; but of that, 125,000 £. was paid upon the duty, which, in Mr. Brown's opinion, the brokers had no right to charge. This practice, he said, of charging on the long instead of the short price, was not exercised in any other trade.

Malt Tax.

Beetroot Sugar.

All Colonial Sugar to be sold by public Auction.

Commissions should be charged by the merchants to the planters on the short price instead of on the long price.

J A V A.

William Dennison,
Esq.

Java.
Sugar cultivation in
Java out of all ordinary
rules

Sugar is sold in Java
for 15 to 20 per cent.
more than merchants
now give for it in
London.

Your Committee had before them a witness, William Dennison, esq., who had been 25 years in Java, the greater part of which time he spent in Sugar cultivation. He went at great length into the mode of cultivation in Java; the general effect of which was to show that the cultivation of Java was entirely out of all ordinary rules; that by far the larger portion of the Sugar was cultivated in part by forced labour; and that which was not cultivated by forced labour was cultivated under a guarantee from the Government, of a fixed price to the Planter and the Manufacturer. The Government found the money in the outset for the cultivation of the cane-field; and at a particular period of the cultivation turned over the crop to be gathered and manufactured by Planters in the island, guaranteeing them a certain price for the produce. Besides this, Paper Money was advanced without interest, and the Sugar lands privileged from those burdens which were put upon all other lands. He was asked at what price he would undertake to deliver Sugar in London 12 months hence. He answered, "I could not undertake to deliver Sugar to any merchant, because I can get 15 or 20 per cent. more in Java than merchants can give for it here in the City of London." He stated that in 1844 he sold 500 tons of Sugar in Rotterdam, and his loss was 2,500*l.* upon it. He stated that the Dutch Government lost materially upon their export of Sugar some years before, when Sugar was selling at lower prices; it might be five or six years ago. He also stated that the Dutch Government could produce all Sugars 2*l.* a ton cheaper than European Planters. He informed the Committee that he saw some gentlemen in London the other day who had bought some Sugar from him in Java, and that they say that they lose 20 per cent. upon it.

Mr. E. St. Martin.

Nature of the arrange-
ment between the
Dutch Government
and planters in Java.

Increase of sugar culti-
vation in Java.

"The labour in Java is
compulsory.

Your Committee also examined Mr. E. St. Martin, a native of Holland, whose father was engaged in the Java trade. He gave evidence in great detail as to the mode of cultivation, but as he showed that the Government were in the habit of making large advances of capital to Planters, 8,000*l.* or 10,000*l.*, for the construction of buildings and other works; and that they also made advances at the beginning of the cutting of the crop, to enable the contractor to pay the labourers' wages and other expenses of making Sugar; making those advances in Java Bank paper, free and without interest, guaranteeing to the contractor a fixed price, which when they first commenced operations was as high as 27*s.* 6*d.*, which was gradually reduced, and now it is 9*s.* 6*d.* for brown Sugar of average standard quality; and that there were a great many privileges, such as cutting timber in the adjoining districts for building works at half the ordinary tariff, and wood for fuel to supply his works, for which he has to pay nothing, Your Committee does not think it necessary to trouble The House with all the details of his evidence. He showed that they gradually increased the production in this way from 24,000 tons up to 84,000 tons, exclusive of about 6,000 tons of really free Sugar; for the Sugars which go by the name of free Sugars as distinguished from the Government Sugars, are only the surplus of the Sugars grown under the Government contract, which the contractor is at liberty to dispose of on his own account. He showed that so long as the plantations were worked by the Dutch Government, the labour, though not slave labour, was compulsory labour. Under those circumstances, Your Committee must consider that Sugar cultivation in Java must be put entirely out of the category of free-grown Sugar competing at all on equal terms with slave Sugar, and is no criterion of what ought fairly to be considered free-labour Sugar competing with slave Sugar, and which, even grown as it is, it does not appear able to do.

John Crawford,
Esq.

Your Committee also examined John Crawford, Esq., a gentleman who had resided many years in Bengal and Hindostan, but served in a public office in the island of Java for six years, from 1811 to 1817. He stated that he did not understand what the distinction between Government and private Sugar was in Java; but as far as Government Sugar, which is the main part of the production, goes, it is produced by a species of forced labour. "In the village communities where it is thought necessary to cultivate Sugar, the inhabitants have a remission of one-fifth part of the land tax, and they are compelled to give

give up one-fifth part of the land in consideration of it. These are the very best lands, which are artificially irrigated. There are certain persons under the Government who engage as manufacturers; and they are supposed to be able to do so at the rate of 13s. per cwt., the Government taking it off their hands at something like 14s. 4d. per cwt." He states, that the public revenue of Java is advanced for the manufacture of Sugar, and for the cultivation of Coffee. He states, that in the production of 60,000 tons of Sugar 150,000 persons, heads of families, were employed, which, at five inhabitants to a family, he reckons as 750,000 persons. The population in 1845 was ten millions. In Java, Coffee is entirely the monopoly of the Dutch government; it is expected that 136,000,000 of lbs. a year of Coffee will be produced. The number of individuals engaged in the forced cultivation of Coffee in the year 1841 was 453,000 families, which should make a population of about two millions of inhabitants, or one-fifth part of the entire population of the island.

750,000 persons dependent on sugar cultivation in Java. Forced cultivation of coffee.

BEETROOT SUGAR.

Mr. Crawford is asked if he has given attention to the subject of Beetroot Sugar; he answers, he has a little: "My views are, that if the same duties be everywhere imposed upon Beetroot Sugar and Cane Sugar, and trade be free with respect to both, Beetroot Sugar has not a leg to stand on. I understand the produce of the Sugar cane generally ranges from about 50 to 60 per cent. of Sugar, and I understand that of the Beetroot is only five or six per cent.; and how it is to compete with the other I cannot understand; but the trial has never been fairly made. There is a differential duty in favour of the Beet everywhere, or there is a tax upon Cane Sugar, and no tax upon Beetroot Sugar."

John Crawford,
Esq.

Beetroot Sugar.

BENGAL.

He says that the country which produces Sugar in Bengal is of vast extent; it embraces the whole valley of the Ganges; and he should suppose not less than 500,000 square miles. "Labour is very low; 2d. or 2½d. per day, I suppose, is a very handsome rate of wages in Bengal. In Bengal, on what are called the permanently settled lands, the revenue or rentcharge is but a small portion of the whole rent now, though it is very large in amount. I think it is upwards of 3,000,000 l. sterling. That is the land-tax alone; it was at the time of the permanent settlement reckoned to be nine-tenths of the whole rental, or 18s. in the pound, leaving thus one-tenth part to the supposed proprietor, whoever he might be. The revenue settlement assumed (by Lord Cornwallis) a certain party as proprietor, who I believe turns out now not to have been the true proprietor. The land 55 years ago was assessed in perpetuity. You have now, therefore, to add the proprietor's rent that has accumulated since, in order to make up the whole rent that is paid."

Rentcharge on lands in Bengal.

BRAZIL.

Mr. Richard Farrer, a Liverpool Merchant engaged in the Brazilian trade, was examined by the Committee. He stated, the current value of slaves for hire in Rio Janeiro was 1l. 2s. 6d. per month, the hire maintaining the slaves at a cost of 5d. a day. He stated, that the British Mining Companies had generally bought all their slaves, excepting since the Act of Parliament which forbade their purchasing slaves, since which they had hired them for 50 years or something of that kind. He is asked, if the Act is evaded by the English Planters in Brazil hiring their slaves for 50 years. He answers, "It is evaded by anybody who works slaves in Brazil in that way. They pay a certain sum to have the use of the black men for a certain number of years; 50 years was the time specified. The hirer pays the food of the slave." Maintaining a slave with "food, taking a number of them together, (for instance an average of 70, including food, medicines, and so on,) costs 5d. a day; equal to 7l. 10s. a year. They reckon 26 days in a month. The slave works from daylight till nearly dark, having half an hour to breakfast, and perhaps an hour to dinner." Asked if he

Mr. R. Farrer.

Value of slaves for hire in Brazil, and cost of maintenance.

The Act forbidding the purchase of slaves by British subjects is evaded in Brazil, by hiring them for 50 years.

Period for which the slave works in Brazil.

Mode in which the
planters live in the
Brazil.

can conceive it possible that the West Indians should compete with the Brazilians? He says, "I cannot conceive it possible that they should compete with them unless they adopt the same habits which prevail in Brazil of personal residence, economy, and care. Those people in Brazil eat in a way that would astonish persons that have not seen it. *Almost the entire of their food, and that which is most liked too, is black beans and jerked beef, boiled along with a little bacon and some pepper; that is the universal food through Brazil.*"

Prospects of the
Brazilian trade.

Glut of British goods
in the Brazilian market.

Asked if there is any difficulty in the Brazilian Custom-house. He answers: "There is a great deal of difficulty; the Custom-house is very large, but the quantities of goods that are sent out, from England principally, are so great that they are puzzled to find room for them often. *The captain who brought us a cargo of coffee three months ago has been in the habit of going to Rio Janeiro for 20 years, and he said that he had never in his life seen in Rio Janeiro such a quantity of goods as there were then; he thought there must be enough to last them four or five years.*" He adds, in July next the British goods are to be made to pay one-third more than the goods of those countries in which Brazilian goods are received for consumption.

Your Committee examined Mr. John Harbottle, supercargo for Russia, and sometimes for Germany, Austria, and America. This gentleman was examined at great length, and gave in various estimates of the cost of cultivating Sugar in Cuba; but as he was not a practical Planter himself, and did not appear to be personally acquainted with Sugar planting in any way, Your Committee will not trouble The House with any analysis of his Evidence.

Mr. Under Secretary
Hawes.

Mr. Hawes cautioned
the Committee against
Mr. Raymond's evi-
dence, but stated that
there was no charge
against him of disho-
nesty.

Your Committee examined Mr. Under Secretary Hawes. He warned the Committee to receive Mr. Raymond's evidence with considerable caution. He stated that Mr. Raymond had been an officer in the Customs Department, or in the Excise, and was dismissed for misconduct, and, therefore, as a dismissed servant of the Government of the Mauritius, his statement should be received at the present moment with considerable caution. Cross-examined, however, upon this subject, and asked, whether the Committee were to understand that the causes of his dismissal were of a character which should induce the Committee to distrust the truth of his general evidence; if there was any charge of dishonesty or roguery of any kind against him, Mr. Hawes said, "I am not aware of any imputation of dishonesty, nor upon his moral conduct at all. I should say there is nothing which should prevent his being a credible witness before the Committee." Mr. Hawes attempted to answer various statements made by Mr. Barkly on the subject of the power of the Court of Policy in British Guiana, and with respect to certain difficulties alleged by Mr. Barkly to have been thrown by the Colonial Office in his way of getting Chinese labourers at Singapore, and also with regard to Mr. Barkly's allegation that the Civil List in the Colony of British Guiana had been granted in 1841, under the compulsion of a condition made by the Colonial Office of that day, that they would not otherwise consent to an Immigration Act, and to a Loan Ordinance; but Your Committee is not of opinion that Mr. Hawes made out his case. Asked whether the general tenor of the proceedings of the stipendiary magistrates, regulated by instructions from home, was not *rather more adverse to the Planter, who was then in great disfavour with the people of this country, than of the Negro*; he answers, "I am not aware of the fact individually, that any instructions went out of that character or in that spirit. I am perfectly free to confess that a good deal of legislation has been influenced by considerations which no longer I think prevail." Asked, if that early course of proceeding did not very much prejudice the future interests of the Planters; he says, "I think it very probable." Asked again, if it did not interfere with many courses which they might have taken for the protection of their property, and for the improvement of their manufacture, which, being deferred to a later period, *lost much of their efficacy*; he answers, "With regard to the protection of their property, I cannot say that I think so. With regard to the improvement of the manufacture or the cultivation of Sugar, I am not aware of any part of the policy of the mother country which has impeded it, except one, upon which I do not wish to offer any opinion in this Committee; I refer to the general question of the exorbitant protection which has been given to the producers of Sugar in the Colonies." Asked if the Colonists of British Guiana have not spent a considerable sum for machines

Mr. Hawes does not
succeed in refuting the
statement that the Civil
List of British Guiana
had been granted under
compulsion.

A good deal of Colonial
legislation has been in-
fluenced to the pre-
judice of the Planters,
by feelings which do
not now prevail.

for

for clearing out the drains and other works of that kind; he answers, "*I am not aware of the amount; but I am bound to say, that the most intelligent efforts have been made by the colony, and very valuable results must follow from them.*" He was asked if he was understood rightly to have stated that there had been no conditions made respecting the grant of the Civil List, as the price of the Immigration and Loan Ordinances in Demerara. To that he answers, "Distinctly." He is then asked if there is not a letter from Governor M'Leod to Lord John Russell, in 1841, in which, speaking of the Immigration Ordinance, he says, "*It was your Lordship's own promised boon to the Colony, so soon as they should have agreed to the Civil List. The alterations which have been made in your Lordship's draft are not many. They were adopted after considerable discussion,*" and so on; to which he answers, "I do not think that makes one measure a condition of the other. I admit that the two things are connected in that despatch, but I do not think that any condition was distinctly prescribed, at least so I am informed. I merely ascertained that fact from reference to the papers relating to Guiana at the time, and I repeat that I do not think any distinct condition was insisted on." He was asked if he thought, from the information he had received from the Colonies, that the supply of Sugar in our Colonies would continue as large as it had been? He answered, "I should rather abstain from entering into that part of the inquiry before the Committee." Asked, if he had received any information as to any power of obtaining a really free emigration from the coast of Africa? He answers, "There has been a good deal of information collected on that point from time to time; and speaking from the perusal of a great many communications upon the subject, I think there is reason to hope that a considerable amount of free immigration may be obtained, but I do not speak positively upon the point. I speak chiefly of the Kroom Coast, where slavery does not prevail, and where slave trading is unknown. I think that is a more populous district, and one may be led to suppose that a large number may be obtained; but I think it would be a work of time." Asked, if he continued to be of the same opinion that he was on the 23d of July last, that in the Mauritius it would be found that the greatest prosperity was manifest, and the production of Sugar had immensely increased; he answered, "What I then stated, speaking at that time, I should repeat. An enormous increase in the production of Sugar, a large supply of labour, an increased produce from the land of the Mauritius, certainly would justify one in supposing that those were solid indications of prosperity. I am quite aware of the reverses which have fallen upon the Island of the Mauritius; into the causes of those I do not now feel it necessary to enter." Asked, if it is not the fall in the price of Sugar, notwithstanding the greatly increased production, which has brought about those reverses in the Mauritius? He answers, "*I am not aware that the reverses which have been brought about in the Mauritius are simply attributable to the fall in the price.*" Asked, if he remains still of the same opinion that he was on the 23d of July, that the system of free trade and open competition will still be most beneficial to all the parties concerned in the Mauritius and in the West Indies, and if he still thinks it will lead to greater economy of production, and be the means of embarking more capital in the growth and manufacture of Sugar, and tend to the general prosperity of the whole population; he answers, "*Speaking generally, I consider free trade and general competition the only solid foundation of commercial prosperity.*" Asked, if he thinks, when competition has gone a little further, it will have the effect of introducing this great economy in production and of tempting persons to embark more capital in the growth and manufacture of sugar; he answers, "I think generally the removal of commercial restrictions is wise and beneficial; but I can quite understand that a sudden transition from a system of almost monopoly to one of free trade may be attended with great distress."

British Guiana has made great efforts.

The Civil List of British Guiana.

Is unwilling to state his views as to the future supply of Sugar from the British Colonies.

Mr. Hawes believes that a large amount of free immigrants can be obtained from Africa.

Is aware of the present reverses of the Mauritius, but is unwilling to enter into their causes.

The reverses are not to be attributed simply to the fall in price.

A sudden transition from a system of almost monopoly to one of free trade may be attended with great distress.

Madagascar.

Asked, if he admits that it has so far been a cause of very great disturbance in the cultivation of Sugar; he answers, "I cannot attribute the present state of the West Indies wholly to that." His attention being called to the fact, that they require something like $\frac{2}{3}$ ths more room for a Cooly emigrant than for an Irish or Scotch emigrant going to Canada, he says, "*That is the fact; and, considering the nature of the climate, that is the justification.*" Asked, if any steps had been taken to promote a supply of labourers to the Mauritius from Madagascar; he answers, "I do not think it has been possible, under the circumstances,

cumstances, to take any steps. There are communications going on which, I hope, may lead to a restoration of peaceful and profitable relations between the Mauritius and Madagascar. But, as I have said, slavery prevails in Madagascar, and therefore great difficulty exists in the way of promoting the importation of labourers from that island." Asked, if by Orders in Council, which last from 1838 to 1842 or 1843, he puts the Mauritius back five years; he does not merely arrest the course of her improvement for five years, but puts her in a far worse condition in 1843 than she was in 1838; and if he does not think that that gives a great claim to the Mauritius for consideration at the hands of the Home Government. He answers, "I hope that the Mauritius will always receive consideration at the hands of the Home Government. *So important a colony* (and that applies to every colony) *can never be neglected with impunity; and I believe it never will be neglected.*" Being told that the Committee had heard it stated that there are 20,000 French to something like 1,000 British, exclusive of the military, in the Mauritius, he is asked if it is so. He answers, "It may be so. *I should decline, upon prudential grounds, going into any comparative enumeration of the French and English population.*" Being reminded that Lord Grey, in his speech in Parliament, had laid great stress upon central manufactories; and being asked whether he knew that Lord Grey was now satisfied that central manufactories were impracticable; he answers that he is not able to state Lord Grey's opinion upon that subject; that he thinks it a matter entirely for commercial enterprise to decide. There is no doubt that central factories might be the means of improving the Sugar manufacture; but whether it would answer in a commercial point of view, he does not pretend to give an opinion.

Important Colonies
can never be neglected
with impunity.

On prudential grounds
declines going into a
comparative enumera-
tion of the French and
English population

Central factories might
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ture of Sugar, but he
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they would be profit-
able.

PROVINCE OF PARA.

Mr. Consul Ryan writes from Para on the 3d of March last that the cultivation of Sugar in that province is so limited in quantity that supplies are constantly received from Pernambuco for its wants. Raw Sugar can be sold barely to remunerate the cultivator at 10 s. a cwt. That all the Sugar produced in the province is planted and manufactured exclusively by Slaves, as no coloured freeman can be induced to undertake such work at any wages.

The present average price of Slaves (males and females) from 18 to 35 years of age is about 56 l. each; formerly such could be purchased at 35 l. to 40 l.; but the total want of their importation from Africa in that province has caused their rapid decrease, and consequent augmentation of value.

The cultivation of Sugar in that province is at present lucrative, in that province particularly so, as it is in few hands, and owing to constant home demand for consumption.

The internal taxation on Sugar for home consumption is five per cent., and for exportation 12 per cent.

The cost of raw Sugar, including the export duty, brings its value to about 13 s. British the English cwt. free on board.

The yearly cost to his owner of a Slave, for food and raiment, is about 10 l. British.

NAVIGATION LAWS.

WITH regard to this subject, Your Committee examined William Imrie, Esq., a large shipowner and shipbroker, residing at Liverpool. The witness was asked what bearing the repeal of the Navigation Laws would have upon British West India planters desirous of sending Sugar to England; and to give the Committee any statement of the comparative freights from Cuba and Brazil to England, with those from the different British colonies. He answered that, with the exception of last year, since 1832 the freight of Sugar from the Leeward Islands was 3*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., carrying a cargo out for the planters free of freight. He considered the value of a free freight outwards to the planter, from at least 6*d.* to 9*d.* a cwt. according to circumstances. Practically, therefore, such a freight at 3*s.* 6*d.* was equivalent to 2*s.* 9*d.* to 3*s.* at home. These were the average freights from Demerara for Sugar:—

Wm. Imrie, Esq.

A nominal Sugar freight home includes a free freight outward, equivalent to a reduction of 6*d.* to 9*d.* per cwt.

									<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1843	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5
1844	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6
1845	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	7
1846	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5
1847	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2

As regards Jamaica, he has estimated 6*d.* per cwt. in addition to that, that is to say, 3*s.* 9*d.* to 4*s.* out and home. He is asked if that is on account of drogherage. He says, "No;" he means, the ship being cleared free of drogherage in Jamaica; it is on account of the difference in the length of the voyage; the freights to Porto Rico, Santa Cruz, and Antigua are the same as to Demerara. He is asked what proportion of the sugar is exported in Spanish ships, and what in British ships. He answers, "A very small proportion in Spanish ships; they have not much tonnage; they have sufficient to carry a valuable freight from England, but not to carry any large proportion of the produce of Cuba and Manilla; a number of the ships belonging to Spain are small. He is asked this question, that with regard to the capricious freights of this last year, the Committee had been told that they had been as high as 6*l.* a ton, and whether that was so? He answers, "The freights last year were affected very materially in the month of October by a statement in The Times newspaper, that there would be insufficient tonnage to bring the grain that was required for the famine that was staring us in the face. That induced speculation in the chartering of ships to proceed for grain to all parts of the world, and, consequently, it withdrew them from the freights they had been accustomed to. The freights were exceedingly high in all parts where grain was to be had, from the extreme anxiety to get it to England. I cannot charge my memory exactly with the freights, but I should say from the Black Sea about 23*s.* per quarter for wheat; and from American ports the freights were about 9*s.* per barrel for flour. In America they continued for the space of perhaps a couple of months. From two to three months would be the full period for the excessively high freights, which were acted on by a speculative demand for the charter of ships to proceed for grain, looking to the high rates that were current in America; that produced a reaction in the trade, and flour receded to 1*s.* 6*d.* a barrel in New York; that was about the month of April; vessels that were chartered to proceed there were unable to get cargoes in many instances, and they proceeded to Canadian ports for timber, or any other cargo they could get."

Spanish ships ill calculated to carry Sugar.

Freights artificially raised through the alarm created by the Times newspaper.

He is asked whether they went to the West Indies. He answers, "No; that is not the voyage they would make. Some remained till their lay days expired; afterwards receiving the current rate of the day, which, for a considerable period, did not reach 4*s.* a barrel, leaving a loss to the charterers." He is then asked if the effect of that ignorant cry, that there was not shipping in the whole world to bring home the grain, was not to withdraw the ships from the sugar trade. He answers, "Unquestionably." He is asked what was the highest Sugar freight he knew anything of during that period. He answers,

Ignorant cry of a dearth of shipping withdrew ships last year from the Sugar trade.

"The highest Sugar freight we received was 5*l.* per ton from Havannah, 4*l.* 10*s.* a ton Jamaica; that was in July." From Demerara, 50*s.* in February; from Trinidad, 80*s.* in May, and 60*s.* in September. "Those were vessels that went seeking the chartered rates that had been previously given." He is asked, "What were the freights by the chartered ships to Demerara?—Last year the British merchants chartered out and home, 4*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*; that was when vessels were about the very scarcest, chartered in the month of May. That was the highest we chartered at to Demerara and back. That was carrying a full cargo of goods out free, a heavier cargo than that home. I have here several charter-parties from Cuba. From Cuba the freight was 4*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per ton, with five per cent. primage," (4*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*) "that is home only."

The "Achiever," home only, 4*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*

The "Columbine," from Porto Rico, home only, 4*l.* 5*s.*

On the 20th of May, the "Valiant," from Porto Rico, home only, 4*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per ton for Sugar.

On the 15th of May, the "Governor," from Tortola to Lancaster, a small vessel, home only, 4*l.* 5*s.* per ton net of Sugar.

On the 10th of November last, the "Auckland," from Kingston in Jamaica, home only, 3*l.* per ton.

The "Blucher," from Barbadoes to Liverpool, home only, 3*l.* 10*s.*, with an allowance of 5*s.* for having proceeded from an outport to the "Charterer," bringing it down to 3*l.* 5*s.*

The "Kyanite," from Porto Rico, home only, 3*l.* 5*s.* per ton.

In November 1846, the "Flirt," from Cuba to Liverpool, home only, 3*l.* 5*s.* and five per cent.

The Witness then put in this list of freights, furnished to him by Messrs. James Poole & Co., brokers of Liverpool.

THE following is a Sketch of Operations made by us in our capacity of Shipowners and Shipbrokers, to and from the *West Indies*, in 1847.

Date of Charter.	Name of Vessel.	Tonnage.	Destination.	Rate of Freight.	REMARKS.
1847:					
6 January -	Ben Nevis - - -	282	Havannah - - -	75/	Sugar to the United Kingdom.
20 February	Veracity - - -	164	Antigua - - -	90/	Sugar out and home.
22 — -	× John Patchett - -	262	Laguayra - - -	70/	Coffee, in bags.
29 March -	Mary Hannah - - -	103	Porto Rico - - -	85/	Sugar or molasses.
17 April -	Lady Harvey - - -	204	Jamaica - - -	60/	Logwood.
12 May -	× Ino - - -	233	Porto Rico - - -	80/	Sugar.
20 — -	Mary Jones - - -	170	Antigua - - -	80/	Sugar or molasses.
25 — -	× Providence - - -	119	Ditto - - -	80/	Ditto out and home.
27 — -	× Lancashire Witch -	195	Ditto - - -	80/	Ditto - ditto.
5 June -	× Mary and Ann - -	210	Porto Rico - - -	90/	Ditto - ditto.
15 — -	× Laurina - - -	221	Ditto - - -	90/	Ditto - ditto.
19 — -	Creole - - -	154	Laguayra - - -	60/	Coffee in bags.
22 — -	× Flirt - - -	253	Jamaica - - -	80/	Sugar.
8 July -	Victoria - - -	165	Antigua - - -	80/	Ditto or molasses.
21 — -	Anna Watson - - -	285	St. Vincent - - -	90/	Ditto - ditto.
9 September	Urania - - -	204	Cuba - - -	84/	Sugar.
13 November	Dagger - - -	227	Berbice - - -	75/	Wood.
7 October -	Champion - - -	286	Jamaica - - -	80/	Sugar or molasses, out and home.
14 — -	Choice - - -	309	Porto Rico - - -	80/	Ditto - - ditto.
14 — -	Brazil Packet - - -	172	Ditto - - -	75/	Ditto - - ditto.
20 — -	British King - - -	248	Jamaica - - -	60/	Ditto - - ditto.
			St. Domingo - - -	60/	Ditto or wood.
			Cuba - - -	65/	Ditto - ditto.

"We did not charter any vessel for sugar from the *West Indies* from the end of October to the end of the year.

"Those marked with a cross went out in ballast; those not marked "out and home," had liberty of taking cargo out for vessel's benefit.

"We give the quotations of those vessels which were chartered for sugar, molasses, and coffee; but we chartered many other vessels from the Gulf of Mexico, Spanish Main, &c. during 1847, the average of which would about correspond with the annexed scale.

"We had the following Vessels delivered here with Cargoes from the West Indies, having taken chance of the current Rates out there.

Date of Discharge.	NAME.	Where from.	Tonnage.	Rate.	ARTICLES.
1847:					
4 February -	Glanmire - - -	St. Domingo - -	246	60/	Logwood and mahogany.
6 — -	Tyrian - - -	Demerara - -	226	50/	Sugar and molasses.
23 April -	Coila - - -	Porto Rico - -	149	65/	Ditto.
26 — -	Frisk - - -	Ditto - - -	181	55/	Ditto.
1 May -	John Farnworth - -	Jamaica - - -	231	70/	Ditto.
10 June -	Fanny - - -	Trinidad - - -	211	80/	Ditto.
10 August -	Boadicea - - -	Jamaica - - -	132	100/	Coffee.
30 — -	Dugger - - -	Ditto - - -	227	80/	Sugar.
4 November	Funny - - -	Trinidad - - -	211	65/	Ditto.

"We may add, that by the last packet we had several letters from captains of vessels then in the West Indies, that they could not get homeward freights at any rates whatever; and that within the last ten days we have been obliged to send three vessels in ballast to the West Indies.

"Liverpool, 8 March 1848."

Jas. Poole & Co."

Asked if he has any information to give respecting the East Indies? He says, "Last year there were a great many charters in consequence of the desire to get rice from Calcutta at 6*l.* per ton, home only." Asked if they did not get 10*l.* at that time? He answers, "Those are the chartered rates. The rates in Calcutta had reached 10*l.* per ton for rice," and "9*l.* 15*s.* for Sugar and saltpetre." "The freights this year are high from the Mauritius. They might be quoted from 5 *l.* to 5 *l.* 10 *s.* home." "The last quotation from Manilla was 4 *l.* 10 *s.*;" "they loaded as high as 6*l.*" "In China there was a large quantity of shipping; and not finding tea, home they went to Manilla. The freights in Calcutta were the highest from any part of the East." The witness is asked this question: "Is it not a fair conclusion to come to, that even supposing a repeal of the Navigation Laws were to lower freights considerably, which would not appear from your statement, it would lower the freights equally to Cuba and the Brazils, as it would do to Demerara and Jamaica?—It would operate equally if not more in their favour, particularly in Brazil and in Manilla. An American ship carrying Sugar would also carry cotton, if the law were altered; and in Manilla they would carry hemp along with Sugar, which they could do to advantage. Their ships being better adapted for carrying cases or bags of Sugar than for hogsheads of Sugar, I think they would look more to carrying from those two quarters than from the West India Islands." Asked if one reason why the freights are not quite so low from Jamaica and from the British West India Islands as they are from Cuba and Brazil, is not that boxes and bags pack a great deal better than hogsheads? He answers, "Unquestionably; for hogsheads of Sugar frequently are not more than half full; very often not more than two-thirds full, occupying therefore space in the ship without the Sugar being properly packed." "The shipper pays and the shipowner receives freight upon the nett weight of Sugar exclusive of the tare. "A vessel will carry more nett Sugar in boxes than in hogsheads." "The tare of bags is trifling compared with the tare upon hogsheads." He should say that the Danes send home their Sugar from Santa Cruz in hogsheads. He is asked if they stand therefore upon an equal footing with the West India Islands? He answers, "Yes; only I think their Sugar is dryer and does not drain so much; that is not the fault of the ship or of the Navigation Laws, it is the nature of the article, the Sugar not being so well prepared." Mr. Imrie is asked this question, and gives the following answer to it:—

Repeal of the Navigation Laws would operate equally, if not more, in favour of Cuba, Brazil, and Manilla, than it would do to Demerara and Jamaica.

Build of United States ships better adapted to carry "cases" or "bags" than "hogsheads."

Superior expedition ascribed to Danish ships, and answer thereto.

Detention of British ships in the colonies is the cause of the difference.

"With regard to the expedition with which different ships perform their voyages, the Committee has been told that three Danes made a voyage out of London to Santa Cruz and back again into London, with Sugar, in 66 days, being detained only six days at Santa Cruz, expedition unprecedented in mercantile history; also that nine Danes made three voyages in a year, before the month of August; can you give the Committee any statement of what British ships have done?—The detention of British ships in our colonies is so great that it is impracticable to get loaded in six

Shows that his ships
"Favourite," "Treasurer," and "Higginson," have beat the Danes hollow.

days. Generally speaking, an English ship has to discharge a cargo outwards, and I presume the Dane was in ballast. I have a passage here of a ship called the 'Treasurer,' from Matanzas to Greenock in 26 or 27 days, Matanzas being considerably further off than Santa Cruz; that is a passage that scarcely anything can surpass. I have also the particulars of a vessel called the 'Higginson,' 453 tons measurement; she made six voyages within two years, carrying an enormous cargo both ways, and calling at Madeira to take in wine."

Sugar laden ships from Jamaica make their homeward voyage through the Gulf Stream and run up almost to Newfoundland. A ship from Santa Cruz comes straight away to England.

Asked this question, "When a gentleman compares the freight from Jamaica with a freight from Santa Cruz he compares things that are not at all alike?" The Witness answers, "A passage from Jamaica is much longer, for a Sugar-laden ship will, generally speaking, go round to the south of Cuba, and so come through the Gulf Stream." That they are obliged to run up towards Newfoundland. From Santa Cruz they come straight away for England. The witness then goes on to state, "I have another ship, the 'Favourite,' 277 tons, which did something more extraordinary than any of the Danes; she made one voyage to Mauritius and two to Barbadoes and back to Liverpool in one year and five days. I believe there are few vessels even of Danish build that will match that." He is then told it has been alleged that the packing in the Danish ships was better than the packing in the British ships; and he is asked if he considers there is any just ground for any such statement? He answers, "I can only state that the underwriters will write regular traders to the West India Islands on lower terms than they will any other class of shipping. I am speaking of the colonies to Europe." He says American ships go from Cuba to St. Petersburg, and British too. With respect to the premium on ships that are known, he should think it would be similar, "but an American ship not known on Lloyd's Books would be charged 25 per cent. more premium. If the underwriter did not know her, he would not ensure her under. Asked if it is not then quite a fallacy to suppose that the West Indians are to gain anything by the repeal of the Navigation Laws? He answers, "I do not believe the West Indian would be in a better position than he has been for the last 15 years, having only English vessels to employ." Asked if he has not heard that the freights have been as low as 1*l.* from British Guiana to England for Sugar? He answers, "I have not heard that, but I know that last year I suffered myself from having chartered ships to get the high freights that appeared to be going in the West Indies, and I got nothing; I had to leave the island in ballast. I chartered a vessel to go to Trinidad in the month of July, thinking I should get her loaded, but there was not a cask of Sugar to be had, and I had to load her on the Spanish Main, making a heavy loss." That was with fustic and cotton. "We sent two vessels last year to Trinidad and could not load. We sent two to Jamaica and could not load. To Porto Rico we sent one, and could not load." Asked what is the lowest freight he ever knew from Calcutta home with Sugar? He says,

"In 1843 we had a vessel that loaded for Loudon from Calcutta at 35 *s.* and 40 *s.* There are great fluctuations in Calcutta, and in all places where there is much business done; wherever the tonnage gets much beyond the demand, the freight goes down very much; ships being so expensive to lay in port, they must take what they can get and move off. The only quarter this last year that the demand did not reach, was the west coast of South America; there the freights remained as low, or rather lower than the average rates upon that coast. In October 1846, a writer in 'The Times,' signed Mercator, stated there was not tonnage sufficient to bring home 4,000,000 quarters; he estimated it at 800,000 tons shipping. I replied to the letter, in the 'Shipping Gazette,' repelling the idea that was propagated by 'The Times,' stating my conviction that there was sufficient, and that he was wrong in his deductions, inasmuch as 600,000 tons of shipping would have brought the quantity that he said would require 800,000 tons. What I stated was *bona fide* true, for before the month of May all that had got to sea-board was cleared off, and we imported something like 10,000,000 of quarters. That shows there was a great deal more tonnage than was reckoned on by 'The Times,' and absolutely more tonnage than we require for the general purposes of trade; and that causes the laying up of so many ships from time to time: it is no uncommon thing to see a ship now lie in port two or three months idle. Last year, as I stated, they went so quick

because

because there was an inducement for them to do so ; they would go in ballast, and would accomplish three voyages instead of two ; that was done, and we had an ample supply. I considered that that statement going forth to the world was a statement that ought to be contradicted ; IT CAUSED AN ALARM THAT THERE WAS NO NECESSITY FOR, AND IT DREW FROM THE WEST INDIES SHIPS THAT WERE IN THE HABIT OF GOING THERE ; BEING TEMPTED BY THE HIGH PRICES FOR THE GRAIN."

The letter of "Mercator," in the Times, drew from the West Indies last year her habitual ships.

Asked, if it did not unnecessarily double the corn freight ? He answers, "The fear of famine was the means of preserving any rate of freight that might be asked." The Witness afterwards said that "if the Navigation Laws were altered we should withdraw all our ships from the West Indies and send them to the East." Asked if he thinks that the American ships would carry Sugar home to this country cheaper than he could ? He says, "If they were fit ships for the purpose ; but the ships now employed in the lumber trade would not be proper ships to carry Sugar." But he thought the Americans would immediately build new ships fit for the purpose. He is asked, "Has not the increase of British tonnage been mainly employed in the unprotected trade ?" He answers, "No ; the great increase arises entirely from our Navigation Laws. Our trade with China is exclusively in British ships, and they even allow us the coasting trade in China, which we are not allowed anywhere else."

Since the conclusion of the examination of witnesses, Mr. Imrie has addressed a letter to the chairman of Your Committee, giving an account of freights, by the last advices, as follows : —

Mauritius (in January) to United Kingdom -	-	75 s. to 80 s.
Calcutta (in February) to - ditto -	-	105 s.
Porto Rico to United Kingdom -	-	2 l. 10 s. per ton for sugar.
Demerara to - - ditto -	-	2 l. - - ditto.
Jamaica to - - ditto (one ship) -	-	2 l. - - ditto.
Barbadoes to - ditto (no quotation for "seeking ships").		
Havannah to - ditto -	-	55 s. to 62 s. 6 d.
Ditto to Continent -	-	65 s. to 70 s.
Bahia to United Kingdom -	-	65 s. to 70 s.
Ditto to Continent -	-	80 s.
Pernambuco to United Kingdom -	-	70 s.
Ditto to Continent -	-	80 s.

CLAIMS OF THE WEST INDIANS FOR THE EQUALIZATION OF THE DUTIES ON RUM AND BRITISH SPIRITS.

YOUR Committee have given their best consideration to this very difficult question. Your Committee conceive that practical and not nominal equality is the equality which Parliament would seek to establish.

With a view to ascertain what practical equality would be, Your Committee have examined a Scotch Malt Distiller and a British Raw Corn Distiller, the Chairman of Excise in answer to them, and subsequently a British Rectifier, and a Spirit Commission Merchant, in reply to some of the observations of the Chairman of the Excise.

Your Committee, for greater perspicuity, will first take the case of the malt distillers, and it will be learned from the joint evidence of Mr. Charles Gray, a Scotch Malt Distiller, and from the cross-examination of Mr. John Wood, the Chairman of Excise, that far from the Malt Distiller enjoying a protection against the British Rum Distiller, his malt spirits absolutely pay, jointly in malt and spirit duties, 7½ d. a gallon in England and in Ireland more than the rum distiller, exclusive of any disadvantages which he may be under as regards Excise restrictions in common with the British raw corn distiller. The malt distiller in England and the Scotch and Irish distiller importing his Scotch malt spirits into England, pay 7 s. 10 d. a gallon on the spirits, in addition to 1 s. 4½ d., which had been previously paid to the Crown in the shape of malt duty upon the malt used in the manufacture of the spirits, making altogether 9 s. 2½ d.

Malt spirits consumed in England or Ireland pay 7½ d. more duty than rum.

a gallon. The duty charged on rum consumed in England is 8s. 7d., so that malt spirits consumed in England pay 7½d. more than rum.

In Ireland, raw grain spirits pay 2s. 8d.; malt spirits, 4s. 0½d.; rum, 3s. 5d.

In Scotland, raw grain spirits pay 3s. 8d.; malt spirits, 4s. 4½d.; rum, 4s. 5d.

It must, however, be kept in mind that 1½d. in each country is paid in malt duty not included in the respective duties levied on raw grain spirits. This omission being filled up, the duties on raw grain spirits *bonâ fide* stand as follows:—

	s.	d.
England - - - - -	7	11 ½
Scotland - - - - -	3	9 ½
Ireland - - - - -	2	9 ½

The malt distiller claims 6d. as the cost of those Excise restrictions which, in the words of Mr. C. Gray, “prevent a distiller from learning his own business.” He claims also 3½d. for decreases allowed to the rum distiller in the permission to bond his spirits, as a favour to the rum distiller, which, denied to the malt distiller, operates in the race of competition to that extent as a prejudice to the distiller of malt spirits; the distiller of malt spirits having shown that in England and in Ireland the direct and absolute duty paid by malt spirits is 7½d. more than that paid by British rum, further alleges that if the burthen of taxation be measured by an *ad valorem* duty the prices of various descriptions of spirits would stand thus, without taking into calculation the 3½d. per gallon saved by the rum distiller on decreases:—

		Price Ex Duty per Gallon.	Duty.	Shows an Ad Valorem Duty of per Cent
		s. d.	s. d.	
The proportion <i>ad valorem</i> of the duties on rum and British malt spirits.	Highland whiskey, “very fine” - - - - -	2 10	9 2 ½	324
	Good Scotch whiskey - - - - -	1 11	9 2 ½	480
Mr. Gray’s statement of prices.	Good Jamaica rum at proof - - - - -	3 -	8 7	286
	Taking the lowest quality of malt spirits at - - - - -	1 10	9 2 ½	500
	The lowest quality of Leeward Islands rum - - - - -	1 9	8 7	490
	Average of three qualities of whiskey - - - - -	2 2 ½	9 2 ½	416
	Average of rum - - - - -	2 4 ½	8 7	361

But taking Mr. Greene’s statement of prices, which, reduced to proof, would give 3s. 0½d. as the average price of Jamaica rum, and 2s. 3d. as the average price of Leeward Island rum, the case would stand as follows:—

	<i>Ad valorem Duty.</i>
Jamaica rum at proof - - - - -	280 per cent.
Leeward Island ditto - - - - -	381 ½ per cent.

Looking at the Leith Price Current of the 19th of April last, it appears, however, that the prices of Scotch whiskey reduced to proof are as follows:

	s.	d.
Highland malt whiskey - - - - -	3	4
Lowland - ditto - - - - -	2	-

Taking these prices of Scotch whiskey and Mr. Greene’s prices of rum, and then comparing the *ad valorem* duties on each, the case would stand somewhat differently.

	Price <i>ex</i> Duty.	Duty.	Ad valorem Duty.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Jamaica rum at proof - -	- 3 - $\frac{1}{2}$	- 8 7	280 per cent.
Highland whiskey, ditto - -	- 3 4	- 9 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	275 „
Difference in favour of Highland whiskey - - -			
Lowland whiskey at proof -	- 2 -	- 9 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	459 „
Leeward Island rum - -	- 2 3	- 8 7	381 „
Difference in favour of Leeward Island rum - -			

This, however, can scarcely be said to be a just comparison; Jamaica rum constitutes one-half of the whole importation from the British West Indies, whilst Lowland whiskey constitutes considerably the larger proportion of the Scotch distillation of whiskey.

These prices, moreover, of Scotch whiskey are the prices of Scotch whiskey coming into consumption, whilst the prices of rum given by Mr. Greene are the prices going into bond, where the rum, in proportion to "*the age given it,*" improves in market value, at the same time that $3\frac{1}{2}d.$ per gallon, on an average, is allowed for "*decreases.*" The true comparison, therefore, exclusive of interest of money, would be between the duty of $9s. 2\frac{1}{2}d.$ on Scotch whiskey consumed in England, and $8s. 7d. - 3\frac{1}{2}d.$, the virtual drawback of duty on decreases; that is $8s. 3\frac{1}{2}d.$ on rum. The comparison would then stand thus:—

	Prices in Leith, <i>ex</i> duty.	Duty in London.	Ad valorem Duties.
	s. d.	s. d.	
Highland whiskey at proof - - - -	3 4	9 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	275 per cent.
Jamaica rum at ditto - - - -	3 - $\frac{1}{2}$	8 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ (Duty, less decreases allowed.)	270 $\frac{1}{2}$ „
Lowland whiskey at proof - - - -	2 -	9 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	459 per cent.
Leeward Island rum at proof - - - -	2 3	8 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ (Duty, less decrease allowed.)	368 „
Average prices of Scotch whiskey, as above -	2 8	9 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	344 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
Average prices of Jamaica and Leeward Island rum - - - - -	2 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	313 $\frac{1}{2}$ „

The following table exhibits the comparative *ad valorem* bearing of the several duties in England and Scotland upon the different Spirits estimated with and without the allowance of $3\frac{1}{2}d.$ per gallon on rum for "*decreases:*"

Mr. Gray's STATEMENT of PRICE of WHISKEY, and Mr. Greene's for RUM.

	Price ex Duties.	Duty in Scotland.	Duty per Cent. ad Valorem.
Very fine Highland whiskey at proof - - - -	s. d. 2 10	s. d. 4 4 ½	154
Good Scotch whiskey at proof	1 11	4 4 ½	227
Jamaica rum at proof - -	3 - ¾	4 1 ½	134
Ditto - - ditto - -	3 - ¾	4 5	144
Lowest quality of Scotch spirits	1 10	4 4 ½	238
Leeward Islands rum - -	2 3	4 1 ½	183
Ditto - - ditto - - - -	2 3	4 5	196

Leith Price Current (19 April) Prices of Whiskey, Mr. Greene's continued for Rum.

Highland whiskey at proof	3 4	4 4	130
Jamaica rum at proof -	3 - ¾	4 1 ½	134
Ditto - - ditto -	3 - ¾	4 5	144
Lowland Scotch whiskey	2 -	4 4 ½	218
Leeward Islands rum -	2 3	4 1 ½	183
Ditto - - ditto -	2 3	4 5	196

Duty in England.

English raw grain spirits at the "worm end," for the last three months - - -	2 - ½	7 11 ½	389
Ditto now (28 April) - -	2 3 ½	7 11 ½	348
Jamaica rum at proof - -	3 - ¾	8 7	280
Ditto - - ditto - - -	3 - ¾	8 3 ½	270 ½
Leeward Islands rum at proof	2 3	8 7	381
Ditto - - ditto - - -	2 3	8 3 ½	368

Note.—Mr. William Betts stated the price of a gallon of Scotch raw grain spirit to be 1s. 10d.

Whiskey consumed in Scotland pays ¾ d. per gallon less than rum.

In Scotland the case is somewhat different; there malt spirits get a drawback of half the duty on malt, amounting to 8d., which is not accorded to the malt distiller in England or in Ireland. The effect of this is that malt spirits consumed in Scotland have the advantage of ¾ d. a gallon in nominal duty over the rum distiller. This ¾ d., however, is all that he has to set against the restriction of the Excise in the course of his manufacture, and against other restrictions and disadvantages into which Your Committee will now enter.

Your House are no doubt aware that the distiller of British spirits offers a solitary example of any trade which comes under the operation of the Excise Laws, which, in the export of its manufacture, either to the British Colonies or to foreign countries, is denied the drawback of the Excise Duty already paid. The brickmaker, the papermaker, the pasteboard-maker, the brewer of ale and of beer, the sugar refiner, the rum distiller, all get their full drawback upon the export

export of their manufacture to the British Colonies, or to foreign countries; the soap-boiler not only has this advantage, but he is singularly favoured, inasmuch as he at once enjoys a protection of 20s. a cwt. against hard colonial soap, and of 15s. a cwt. against colonial soft; whilst the Excise Duty on home-made hard soap is 1½d. per lb., the duty on colonial hard soap is 2½d., and whilst the Excise Duty on home-made soft soap is 1d., the duty on colonial soft soap is 1½d.. But if the soap-boiler's produce comes into home consumption in the manufacture of woollen goods, he gets a drawback upon his hard soap of 1½d. out of the 1½d. he has paid, and on soft soap he gets half the amount back if consumed in woollens, whilst the soap-boiler and cotton and silk manufacturers have together managed better still. The cotton and silk manufacturers get the whole drawback on hard soap, and seven-eighths of the drawback on soft soap; thus giving a protection in competition to the cotton spinner and to the silk manufacturer, even against the manufacturer of woollens. The malt distiller, instead of getting a protection, as does the soap-boiler, against colonial produce, has to meet the malt spirits of the Canadas, or any other British colony, in this country at a disadvantage of 7d. per gallon, the Canadian malt distiller paying no duty in the colony, whilst, if the transaction be reversed, and the British malt distiller exports his spirits to the Colonies, he pays in Canada a duty of 2s. (wine gallon), whilst the colonial spirits in Canada pay but 6d., and in Jamaica, which complains of the preference given to British spirits in England, Scotch malt spirits, which have gone out from England charged with a duty of 8d., and English and Irish malt spirits with a duty of 1s. 4½d., upon their arrival in Jamaica, under the tariff of the 20th of November last, find themselves charged with a 6s. colonial duty, making altogether on Scotch malt spirits 6s. 8d., and on Irish and English malt spirits 7s. 4½d. to contend with the colonial spirits, which pay but 1s. 6d.

Galling contrast in the position of the British spirit distiller as compared with every other interest subject to the Excise laws.

Singular partiality displayed towards the soap-boiler and cotton and silk manufacturer.

Position of malt distiller in Canada.

Treatment of the British distiller in Jamaica by the tariff of 20 Nov. 1840.

But Your Committee will now bring before your consideration the relative positions of the British distiller and of the rum distiller in foreign countries.

The Frenchman may warehouse his brandy or his wine in bond in this country, and send it out at pleasure, charged with no English duty, to foreign countries or to the British colonies.

The Dutchman enjoys the same privilege with his hollands or his curaçoa.

How stands the matter with the English and Scotch distiller?

By the late alterations of the American tariff, in the early part of 1846, the duty upon spirits, which up to that time had been 70 cents, or 2s. 11d. a gallon, was altered to a duty of cent. per cent. *ad valorem*.

Your Committee has already shown that the average price of the three qualities of Scotch whiskey, according to Mr. Gray's evidence, is 2s. 2½d. exclusive of duty, freight, casks, charges, commission, and insurance, the aggregate of which may be taken at 6½d., thus making the price of a gallon laid down in New York 2s. 9d. Thus good Scotch whiskey, were equal justice dealt out to it and to colonial rum, English soap, and Dutch gin, would pay 2s. 9d. duty and no more in New York; but, thanks to the Excise Laws, in addition to this, it would pay 8d. Excise malt tax if exported from Scotland, and twice that if exported from England, upon the back of which the cent. per cent. duty levied in the United States would be charged.

Effect of Excise laws upon the exportation of British spirits to the United States, in competition with British rum, Dutch gin, French brandy, &c.

But as practically there are no ports of export to America for Scotch spirits from Scotland but in the Firth of Clyde, a great part of the Scotch malt spirits from the eastern parts of Scotland necessarily come to England for export, when, under a regulation made within the last two years, the exporter of Scotch whiskey is put upon the footing of the English and Irish malt distiller, and his spirits consequently go out charged with a duty of 1s. 4½d., which, doubled by the operation of the cent. per cent. duty in the United States, lays him under the disadvantage of 2s. 8½d. in his competition with the rum, the brandy, and the gin distillers of all countries but his own, and virtually almost annihilates his trade.

Your Committee having exhibited the much more simple case of the malt distiller, and having shown, that if the importunities of the rum distiller for equality of duties were to be gratified on this point, that equalization would require at least that the rum distiller should pay 7½d. a gallon more, or that the Scotch whiskey distiller should pay 7½d. a gallon less; they will now come to

British Corn distiller.

the far more difficult and intricate question of the relative position of the rum and the British raw corn distiller. Here *nominally*, no doubt, there is a protection of 9*d.* a gallon given to the British corn distiller.

British raw corn spirits pay 7*s.* 10*d.* a gallon in England, 3*s.* 8*d.* in Scotland, and 2*s.* 8*d.* in Ireland. The duty on British rum is 8*s.* 7*d.* in England, 4*s.* 5*d.* in Scotland, and 3*s.* 5*d.* in Ireland; but to set off against this, Mr. Currie claims that the Excise restrictions, direct and indirect, amount at the present time to 1*s.* 1½*d.* a gallon; and this is the way in which he makes out the claim:

Estimated charges on British distiller, by Mr. Currie.		s. d.	
	Duty on malt - - - - -	-	1½
	Duty on foreign barley, 2 <i>s.</i> , supposing the same to be paid by the consumer, equal to, when converted into spirits - -	-	1
	Interest on outlay of capital on premises for increased extent of plant to carry out the requirements of Excise - - -	-	1
	Decreases allowed to the West Indians, but denied to the British corn distiller - - - - -	-	3½
	Interest on the duty of 7 <i>s.</i> 10 <i>d.</i> paid at the worm's mouth by the corn distiller (but saved to the rum distiller by being allowed to bond his spirits) - - - - -	-	½
	Extra expense of separate premises for rectification - - -	-	3
	Loss of yeast - - - - -	-	1
	Loss of material, loss of fuel, interruption of distillation, im- pediments to successful fermentation, and other restrictions of the Excise, hampering and cramping the distillers in their attempts at improvement - - - - -	-	2
	TOTAL - - -	1	1½

From which, if the 1*d.* allowed as a set-off against the duty on corn be deducted (the duty on barley being to be reduced to a nominal duty of 1*s.* next year), reduced to a halfpenny, or even to nil, it would reduce the claim of the British distiller to 1*s.* 0½*d.* With respect to the claim of 1½*d.* for malt duty, it is admitted frankly by the West Indians, and pretty much by the Chairman of Excise, though, to be sure, a doubt was faintly expressed by him whether it was more than 1½*d.* With regard to the claim of 3½*d.* for decreases, the fact of that advantage being given to the West Indians is not denied, though it is alleged the decreases on English spirits do not amount to anything like the acknowledged decreases on rum.

Your Committee have had no scientific evidence before them to account for the anomalous supposition that alcohol, in a gallon of whiskey at proof, should be more adhesive and less disposed to escape from its cask by evaporation, than alcohol in a gallon of rum at proof from the puncheon that contains it. No satisfactory evidence has been afforded to Your Committee on these points to guide them by the superior wisdom of experience contradicting the theory which seems to square with common sense, that alcohol will be governed by the laws which rule alcohol, and will retain all the properties of alcohol equally, whether it be found in a gallon of gin, of rum, or of whiskey, each spirit being alike barrelled in a wooden cask. The natural conclusion therefore must be, that if corn spirits were bonded for an equal time with rum spirits the evaporation and decreases would be the same; whilst Your Committee have no reason to imagine that the corn distiller, had he the option, would not desire, equally with the rum distiller, "to give age" to his spirits previous to sale, both articles alike improving in value by time and keeping.

Colourable license of a
raw grain distiller to
bond for export.

Your Committee have before shown the disadvantage that the English malt distiller is under in the exportation of his spirits, as compared with the rum distiller. The British raw corn distiller is in a still worse position. Nominally, it is true, the raw corn distiller may bond his raw corn spirits for export; but this is but a colourable license, inasmuch as there is no market, foreign or colonial, for spirits in their crude state. A market there would be for the rectified and the compounded spirits, but no drawback being allowed upon compounded spirits, practically the export of British spirits is entirely prohibited.

hibited. The Excise restriction which, in the competition between British rum and English malt spirits in the market of the United States, amounts to 2s. 8½d. per gallon, rises to 15s. 11d. in the case of the distiller of raw spirits; that is to say, 7s. 10d. the Excise duty, 1½d. malt tax not drawn back, and the cent. per cent. duty upon the back of that charged in the tariff of the United States of America; and in Jamaica it would be subjected to a duty of 7s. 11½d. in addition to the 6s. colonial duty, making 13s. 11½d. on British raw corn spirits in Jamaica against 1s. 6d. duty on their own rum.

Mr. Currie, in proof of his allegation that the increased plant occasioned by the requirements of the Excise, amounted to 1d. a gallon, gave in evidence that the increased plant to which he himself was subjected in 1825, when the new Excise regulations came into force, amounted to between 40,000 l. and 44,000 l., and taking the interest of the capital so laid out at five per cent., and allowing five per cent. for the wear and tear, making altogether 10 per cent., and dividing 10 per cent. by the number of gallons annually made, it gave the sum of 1d. a gallon; whilst he also stated that the increased plant of the six distillers in England in 1825 entailed upon them a cost of 250,000 l. at that time. With respect to the 1d. charged upon yeast, Mr. Currie gave in evidence that the Excise regulations prohibited them from the use of their own yeast, and that whilst their own yeast was allowed to flow into the gutters they had to purchase yeast from the London brewers; and that the cost of yeast with the expense of cartage amounted to 1d. a gallon. Mr. Currie stated that the cost of compounding and rectifying spirits amounted to 8d. a gallon, that of this 2d. consisted of ingredients and 6d. of the cost of manufacture, interest upon capital laid out upon the plant, and the buildings necessary for rectification. But of this cost of 6d. he reckoned that one-half might be saved were the brewer and distiller allowed to be rectifiers too. Having had a model of Mr. Smith's distillery before them, where the two processes of distilling and rectification were carried on in conjunction, Your Committee had an opportunity of seeing with their own eyes that so far at least as the steam-engine and boilers and engine-house were concerned, the same steam-engine and the same apparatus that served the one concern served the other too. Under the Excise restrictions a distillery and a rectifying concern cannot be erected nearer than a quarter of a mile from each other.

Mr. William Nicholson, the most extensive rectifier in England, converting raw spirit into gin and other compounds, in contradiction to the evidence of the Chairman of the Excise, stated that he believed that if parties were allowed to carry on the two operations of distilling and rectifying upon the same premises, or premises adjoining, it would reduce the expense of making gin nearly a half. Taking the expenses, exclusive of the compounds at 8d. a gallon, this altogether confirms the statement of Mr. Currie.

Your Committee come next to consider what the value to be set upon the other Excise restrictions may be. Nothing can be more difficult than to come to any accurate estimate upon this subject, but when it is given in evidence by Mr. Currie, which the Chairman of the Excise was not able to contradict, that the Excise restrictions are such that they make it imperative upon the distiller to put his furnaces out of blast, or at least to rake them out and damp them down 585 times in the course of the year; that during these operations two hours out of five in each distillation are lost, and the people are all kept on unprofitably employed, losing, according to the estimate of Mr. Currie, 1,170 hours in the course of every year, being equal to 48 days and nights and 18 hours, in obedience to the requirements of the Excise, Your House, without being able to come to any accurate estimate of what the real cost of those Excise restrictions are, can very easily imagine that they may amount to 2d. a gallon, when to this is added that, to secure conformity to the Excise restrictions by the Act of the 6th of George the Fourth, c. 80, no less than 54 clauses present themselves, subjecting the British distillers to as many as 51 different penalties, varying from 500 l. to 20 l.

Mr. Currie in corroboration of his own estimate, cited the 65th chapter of the 8th & 9th of Victoria, which was an Act passed to regulate the duties on corn and spirits imported from the Channel Islands; the preamble of which sets forth that, "Whereas by the laws now in force, goods, the produce or manufacture of the islands of Guernsey, Jersey, Alderney, and Sark, may be imported

Increased plant to the amount of 250,000 l.; in obedience to Excise Laws.

Yeast allowed to flow into the gutter.

Saving which would be effected by distilling and rectifying on the same plant.

Mr. Nicholson's estimate of the expense incurred by distilling and rectifying processes being separated.

Other Excise restrictions.

Fires raked out 585 times in a year.

1,170 hours unprofitable employment incurred.

Fifty-one penalty clauses in the Act.

Channel Islands Act.

1 s. 2 d. estimated as countervailing excise duties and licences.
Lord Goderich's estimate of the amount of compromise between the West Indian and British distiller.

from the said islands respectively into the United Kingdom, on payment of such proportion of such duties as fairly countervail any duties of Excise payable on the like goods the produce of the part of the United Kingdom into which they are imported ;” and then goes on, after citing the duties respectively on spirits in England, Scotland, and Ireland, to state that, “but, by reason of the duty of Excise on malt, being materials from which such spirits are made, and of the duty of Excise on licences to distillers, and makers of malt and spirits, the duties before mentioned cannot be taken as fair countervailing duties on the like spirits the produce or manufacture of the said islands imported into any of the parts of the United Kingdom aforesaid, and it is necessary therefore to determine the same ;” and the same is determined by the imposition of a differential duty of 1s. 2d. upon spirits, the produce of the Channel Islands, as compared with spirits manufactured in the United Kingdom. Mr. Currie also cited a speech of Lord Goderich in 1826, when he assessed the differential duty at 1s. 6d. as a fair compromise between the West Indians and the British distillers.

In answer to this it was asserted that 1s. was estimated as a set-off against the Corn Laws then in force. But the average duty paid on barley between the years 1828 and 1839, when the Corn Law of 1828 was in force, was 6s. a quarter. The average duty paid under the Corn Law of 1842 in the first three years of its operation, was 5s. 11d. a quarter. Taking Mr. Currie's estimate of a halfpenny per gallon for every shilling of duty, Lord Goderich's duty of 1s. 6d. by the reduction of the duty on foreign barley from an average of 6s. to 1s., could only be diminished 2½d. a gallon. By parity of reasoning, if it were pretended that the 1s. 2d., though otherwise expressed in the Channel Islands Act, were intended to countervail the indirect means possessed by the Channel Islands of virtually using foreign barley, free of duty, in the manufacture of their spirits, 2½d. is all that can be debited to the account of the Corn Law of 1842, in force when this Channel Islands Bill was introduced and passed by the Government of Sir Robert Peel, assessing 1s. 2d. as the fair countervailing duty. Thus, taking the least favourable aspect of the case for the British distiller, 11½d. would appear to be the fair countervailing duty contemplated in 1845 by the late Government purely against the Excise restrictions upon the British, Scotch, and Irish distillers.

The Chairman of the Excise's opinion of the excise restrictions.

In answer to all these allegations, Mr. John Wood, the Chairman of the Excise, was examined at very great length. Mr. Wood frankly admitted to the Committee that whilst he had certainly formed an opinion of the real amount of charge to which an English distiller is subjected, in consequence of the Excise restrictions, that he presented that opinion to the Committee “*with very great diffidence*,” because he thought the Committee would be already aware of the very great difficulties with which the subject was encumbered. But there were, he said, “*some matters of fact*” which, in his opinion, “*could not be disputed* ;” and these related to actual deficiencies in the stocks of distillers and rectifiers, in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and also in transit from one country to another, during different periods. With respect to the estimate, which is a matter of opinion, he says, “But the estimate, if it deserves the name, which I venture to suggest on those two memorials, is this,” meaning the memorials of the distillers, and the West India body, in which the distillers had claimed 1s. 4½d. ; and the West Indians had estimated the restrictions at only 2d. a gallon, the distillers claiming in their memorial, for—

Comparison of the distillers, and West Indian view of the case.

	s.	d.
Corn duty - - - - -	-	1
Malt duty - - - - -	-	1 ½
Distiller's increased plant - - - - -	-	1
Excise restrictions - - - - -	-	3
Duty on decreases and interest on duty advanced - - - - -	-	4
Extra expense in rectifying in consequence of the law - - - - -	-	6
Making altogether - - -	1	4 ½

The West Indians' estimate being,—

	s.	d.
Corn duty - - - - -	Nil.	
Increased plant - - - - -	Nil.	
Malt duty - - - - -	1	½
Excise restrictions - - - - -	-	½
All other claims - - - - -	Nil.	
TOTAL - - - - -	-	2

Mr. Wood then states: "In the first place the corn duty is either abolished, or so nearly so, that I have not put down anything for it. I take the malt duty at 1½d.; I believe 1½d. would be the actual amount; but I have taken 1d., because both the West Indians and the distillers have agreed upon that sum. The distillers' increased plant I have taken at 1d., because the distillers have so given it. I have also put down the Excise restrictions at 3d., because the distillers have put them down at 3d. So far I have gone on the data presented by the distillers themselves. But we now come to their demand for 4d. for duty on decreases and interest on duty advanced; and if the calculations which I have stated to the Committee this day are right, instead of the duty on decreases being 4d., it amounts to one halfpenny." With respect to this disallowance of 3½d., as a counterpoise to the 3½d. to the West Indians for decreases, Mr. Wood argues that the British distillers cannot be sincere in this claim, inasmuch as the Excise, year by year, have offered them the practical remedy of allowing them to bond as the West Indians are allowed to bond, but they have uniformly refused it. He therefore conceives that, on the balance of the advantages and disadvantages, the distiller is content with the present arrangement.

Specious as this argument appears to be as against the English distillers, it is right that The House should understand that the offer of bonding has never been made accompanied by any offer of a remission of duty on "decreases," which is 7-8ths of the whole matter in dispute.

Colourable license offered to the raw grain distiller to bond for export.

The English distillers claim, in order to be put on an equal footing with the rum distiller, who by being charged the duty when his spirit goes into consumption saves 3½d. duty on "decreases" and ½d. interest on the distiller's prompt payment of his duty, that they should be allowed to bond their spirits on the same terms? and it is well to remark here that Mr. Wm. Belts, the rectifier, gave evidence that the "decreases" on gin going through the process of rectification alone were two per cent.; but the offer of bonding to them excludes the larger boon of 3½d. on "decreases," and grants nothing but the smaller boon of ½d. interest on the prompt payment of duties. No offer has yet been made to the English distiller to substitute for the present Excise practice of gauging and charging his spirits by the quantities shown at the "worm end," the practice of the Customs applied to rum of gauging and charging the quantities only that actually come into consumption.

Thus the offer made by the Excise to the English distiller withholding 7-8ths of the value of the measure sought, it remains only a question with the honest distiller whether that eighth remaining part, estimated at ½d., is worth acceptance by itself, coupled with further restrictions and with the exposure of the honest distiller to an easier evasion of the duty by illicit distillers, and consequent disadvantage in an unfair competition.

In Ireland, however, it seems that 5-8ths of the spirits are bonded, and Mr. Wood says "*the Irish spirit probably lies TWO OR THREE YEARS in the warehouse, the Scotch spirit perhaps as many weeks, or at most as many months.*"

It is unnecessary, however, to remind The House how few months it needs for spirits paying either 7s. 11½d. or 8s. 7d. to be in bond for the interest on prompt payment of duty, at five per cent., to reach ½d.

It has been given in evidence that rum generally remains in bond from six to nine months. The House will see at once that ½d. on 8s. 7d. would barely afford five per cent. interest on the rum duty upon FIVE WEEKS. How, then, can it with truth be charged against the English distiller, that in valuing this advantage to the rum distiller at ½d., he is guilty of exaggeration?

Your Committee now come to the "matter of fact" which Mr. Wood had stated, could not be disputed. Mr. Wood had alleged that the deficiency on the

The Chairman of Excise's estimate of the decrease of spirits

during transit, from actual and indisputable facts.

transit of Irish and Scotch spirits arriving in London, as re-gauged by his own officers for the purpose of charging the duty, on arriving in London, on 1,673,998 gallons leaving Ireland and Scotland, was 8,584 gallons, equal to *fifty-one hundredths per cent.*, and, at the English duty of 7s. 10d., a loss to the importer of *one farthing and ninety-two hundredths of a farthing per gallon*. That is to say, less than a halfpenny per gallon. Upon this indisputable matter of fact, Mr. Wood proceeds afterwards to make this extraordinary statement to the Committee:—

The Chairman of Excise's rule-of-three estimate of the charges on the distillers from the indisputable fact of the decrease.

“I have stated that, according to my calculation, taking the malt duty at 1½d.; the distiller's increased plant at 1d.; and the Excise restrictions at 3d., which are the figures given by the English distillers; and instead of 4d. for duty on decreases and interest on duty advanced, giving a halfpenny, it amounts to 6d. But I have a remark to make upon the 3d. charge for Excise restrictions, and without wishing to be at all invidious, I think the Committee will allow me to state, THAT IF I TEST ANY ONE OF THEIR DEMANDS BY FACTS, AND I FIND THAT SUCH A DEMAND IS UNREASONABLE, THAT IS, THAT IT IS NOT SUSTAINED BY FACTS, I HAVE A RIGHT TO APPLY A SIMILAR PROCESS TO A DEMAND WHICH I CANNOT TEST BY THE ACCURATE APPLICATION OF FACTS; AND PURSUING THAT TRAIN OF REASONING, HAVING TRIED THE DEMAND OF 4d. FOR DUTY ON DECREASES AND INTEREST ON DUTY ADVANCED, AND FINDING IT TO BE ONE HALFPENNY, OR WE WILL PUT IT AT 1d., IF THE COMMITTEE PLEASE, I THEN TRY THE EXCISE RESTRICTIONS, FOR WHICH THEY DEMAND 3d., BY THE SAME RULE, AND I FIND BY A COMMON RULE-OF-THREE SUM, THAT IF THE 4d. TURNS OUT TO BE ONLY ONE HALFPENNY, THE 3d., WHICH IS THE DEMAND FOR EXCISE RESTRICTIONS, TURNS OUT TO BE A FARTHING AND FOUR-EIGHTHS OF A FARTHING; BUT TAKING, AS HAS BEEN SUGGESTED, THE DECREASES AND INTEREST AT 1d., I FIND, THAT AS 4d. IS TO 1d., SO IS 3d. TO 0¾d.; AND THEREFORE, INSTEAD OF ALLOWING THE 3d., I SHOULD BE VERY MUCH INCLINED TO SAY THAT 1d. WAS THE UTMOST AMOUNT THAT CAN BE MADE OUT AS THE VALUE OR COST TO A DISTILLER OF THE EXCISE RESTRICTIONS.”

The Chairman of the Excise's estimate of the compromise which ought to be allowed between the Excise and British distiller.

And thus it is, that having set the expense of rectifying at nil, and the saving to be made by allowing the distiller and the rectifier to distil and rectify upon the same premises at nil, he comes to this extraordinary conclusion: “*I have no hesitation in saying that, in my opinion, the distillers have not made out a case for anything like 6d.* If I had to fix it myself, I should say 4d. is all that they have made out a case for.”

Your Committee imagine that Your House will not be much disposed to attach any great value to this novel “*train of reasoning*” by the Chairman of Excise, or to his “rule-of-three” mode of calculating the obstructions of the Excise regulations upon the British distiller; but if they were inclined to sanction such a rule-of-three sum as “a test,” the British distiller will have a right to turn the tables upon the Chairman of the Excise, and to say, “If you admit nothing now as a set-off against the duty of 2s. on foreign barley under the present Corn Law, falling as it does to 1s. next year, and apply your rule-of-three sum to this, we know of no rule of arithmetic by which, if 2s. give “nil,” the 6s. average duty under the Corn Law of 1828, or the 5s. 11d. average duty under the Corn Law of 1842, should give any other result than “nil” in former estimates of the weight of the fiscal burthens upon the British distiller.

There is, however, something more to be said upon this head. In answer to Mr. Wood's statement, that the decreases upon the spirits imported from Scotland and from Ireland were but 51-100ths per cent. representing one farthing, and 52-100ths of a farthing per gallon. Mr. Henry Browning, a commission merchant, whose firm is more extensively engaged in the spirit trade than any other house in London, came before the Committee and produced a statement, which he represented to be a statement of real deficiencies, as gauged according to the practice of the Custom-house officers when gauging Rum, upon certain Scotch spirits imported from Leith to London, by the “Royal Victoria,” on the 27th of March last, which showed that instead of the deficiencies being a farthing and 92-100ths of a farthing per gallon, they were actually 1d. and 7-100ths of a farthing. This statement has since elicited from the Chairman of

The actual amount of decrease of spirits on transit as given by Mr. Browning, commission merchant.

the

the Excise a letter addressed to the Chairman of Your Committee, in which he desires to enclose certain Papers containing observations and explanations of the evidence he gave before the Committee, and in one of those it is admitted that the transit loss originally set down by the Excise as 32-100ths of a gallon on the actual quantity in four casks of spirits imported in the "Royal Victoria" on the 27th of March 1848, proves to be 94-100ths of a gallon per cent. on the average, "or about 7s. 4d. on every 100 gallons shipped for England."

A note by the way is appended, to the effect that this extraordinary decrease was the consequence of the four casks of spirits having "*been imported in the hold of a steam vessel,*" and having been "CONSEQUENTLY EXPOSED TO GREAT HEAT AND LOSS IN TRANSITU"!!!

The Chairman of the Excise's amendment of the indisputable fact as regards decrease on transit.

The House needs not to be instructed that SPIRITS as well as Quicksilver EXPAND with "GREAT HEAT" and CONTRACT with "cold."

The House should understand, however, that the mode of gauging spirits, to ascertain the amount liable to charge, is somewhat complicated and somewhat conflicting.

The strength of the Spirits gauged by the hydrometer is one test.

The "*bulk quantity,*" ascertained by the gauge rule, is another test.

The strength of Spirits apparently diminishes with heat; the diminution, however, is not one of reality; the bulk is swelled by heat, whilst the Spirit, remaining the same, becomes spread over a larger quantity; thus suppose, at a temperature of 40 Fahrenheit, a cask to show 100 gallons at proof, let the temperature be raised to 60, the cask would show 101 gallons in bulk, but, tested by the hydrometer, ought to show Spirits one per cent. under proof.

The weight of Spirits is unaffected by heat or cold; whether swelled by heat, or contracted by cold, the weight of Spirits does not vary.

The "decreases" in the bulk, however, ordinarily greatly exceed the "decreases" in the over-proof strength.

In the case of the "Royal Victoria," the—

	Gallons.
Decreases in the "bulk quantity" are - - -	3
Ditto - in the over-proof strength - - -	1 $\frac{75}{100}$
Total - - -	4 $\frac{75}{100}$

The House will understand from this simple statement of facts how much the "great heat" of the hold of a steamer had to do with these extraordinary "decreases."

But the Excise gaugers themselves unconsciously proclaim this important fact, for it will be remembered that it has been stated in evidence by Mr. Wood, that the actual "decreases," according to the usual mode of measurement by the Excise on 1,673,998 gallons sent from Ireland and Scotland to England, in the year ending 5 January 1847, were 8,584 gallons, averaging $\frac{51}{100}$ of a gallon per cent.; the "decrease," gauged by the same rule in the "Royal Victoria," was only $\frac{32}{100}$.

If The House will now apply Mr. Wood's "train of reasoning," and "rule-of-three sum" to the average "decrease" *in transitu* upon all the Spirits transported from Scotland and Ireland into England, they will find that—

As 32 is to 94, so is 51 to 149 $\frac{8}{10}$ ths;

in other words, the deficiency *in transitu* shown to be according to the usual practice of the Excise measured in money, a fraction under *one halfpenny* per gallon, stands now confessed to be a fraction under *three HALFPENCE* per gallon, and measured by quantities upon the 1,673,998 gallons of Scotch and Irish Spirits, instead of 8,584 gallons, will show 25,076.

But there is yet another point upon which the attention of The House requires to be directed, where there has been some fencing on the part of the Excise; it is this: in his examination in chief the Chairman of Excise stated to Your Committee that it was not the custom of the Excise to charge fractional gallons upon the British distillers, and it is admitted on all hands that in dealing with Colonial Spirits the Custom-house officers charge duty on no fractions of a gallon in a puncheon of Rum which do not come up to $\frac{84}{100}$ ths of a gallon.

The amended decrease almost agrees with that given by the distillers.

a gallon. In contradiction to this evidence, in "the corrections to the Chairman's Evidence," subsequently put in, the Excise in seeking to pare down the distiller's claim for "waste," take credit even in the now admitted $\frac{94}{100}$ for all the fractions of gallons before denied to be ever taken into account; still it is not disputed that had the Spirits in question been "Rum," gauged by the "Customs," instead of Grain Spirits gauged by the Excise, these fractions of gallons, amounting to $1\frac{10}{100}$, would have been conceded, together with the *bonâ fide* decreases, to the Rum distiller, and consequently were the British distiller under the Customs rules and supervision instead of the Excise, his position would be improved, even in the case of the "Royal Victoria," to the extent of $1\frac{11}{100}$ of a gallon per cent., represented in money by $4\frac{16}{100}$ of a farthing, instead of $\frac{94}{100}$, represented by $3\frac{55}{100}$ of a farthing; but taking the general average of $\frac{51}{100}$ instead of $\frac{30}{100}$ of a gallon, it is a very clear and practical rule-of-three sum:

Measured in Gallons.

As 32 is to 51, so is 111 to $176\frac{9}{10}$,

Or, *Measured in Money, viz. in FARTHINGS:*

Farthings. Farthings. Farthings. Farthings. d.
As $1\frac{20}{100} : 1\frac{94}{100} :: 4\frac{16}{100}$ to $6\frac{65}{100} = 1\frac{1}{2}\frac{65}{100}$.

Thus exhibiting $1\frac{1}{2}d. \frac{65}{100}$ of a farthing as the *£. s. d.* difference between the position of a trader in Spirits under the Excise and under the Customs in respect merely of the mode of levying the duty.

Your Committee conceive that the only question they have to try is the relative position of the Rum, the Raw Grain, and the Malt Spirit distillers, under the present classification of duties, judged upon the practical administration of the law, one by the Excise and the other by the Customs; and the result of the inquiry before Your Committee appears to be, that the British West Indies have no just cause of complaint as respects their position in the competition in this country with the British spirit distiller, and still less as respects the re-exportation of their Spirits, either to Foreign countries or to the British colonies.

The West Indies have no just cause of complaint.

EXPLANATORY NOTES in respect of the Prices of HIGHLAND WHISKEY.

Leith Commercial List Office,
8 May 1848.

My Lord,

We are in receipt of your favour of 26th April, which we have delayed answering until we should have obtained the fullest information possible in explanation of your queries respecting the prices of Scotch spirits.

Having made the necessary inquiries, we beg to submit to your Lordship the following statement, obtained from an authority upon which we can rely:—

"The prices of whiskey quoted in the Leith Price Current of 14 April 1848 are perfectly correct. Fine malt whiskey costs no more to manufacture than plain malt whiskey. It brings a high price because there is only a limited quantity of it, just as some kinds of Rhenish wine sell very high, from the limited quantity and the reputation they have obtained. If those who make fine malt whiskey were to make a much greater quantity of it, the price would soon fall to the price of plain malt whiskey.

"Lord George Bentinck is wrong in supposing that if the prices of—

Highland malt whiskey be	:	-	-	-	-	s.	d.
Lowland " ditto " be	::	-	-	-	-	3	4 a gallon.
						2	"

Therefore the average price is - - - 2 8 "

The average in all probability will not exceed 2s. 1d. a gallon, for there are 20 gallons of Lowland sold for one gallon of Highland.

"The prices quoted in the Price Current are for spirits 11 per cent. overproof, and for spirits on which the full duties of excise had been paid. We may take them to be—

Raw grain whiskey	-	-	-	-	-	6/3 or 75 pence,
Malt whiskey	-	-	-	-	-	7/ or 84 "

Reducing these to their equivalent prices at proof, we have—

Raw Grain.

As 111 : 100 :: 75 : 76.567 or $5/7\frac{567}{1000}$

Malt.

As 111 : 100 :: 84 : 75.675 or $6/3\frac{675}{1000}$

SELECT COMMITTEE ON SUGAR AND COFFEE PLANTING. 185

Now, the Excise duties on malt whiskey are, per proof gallon (in Scotland),

	s.	d.
Spirit duty - - - - -	3	8
Malt duty - - - - -	7	⁸ / ₁₀₀₀
In all - - - - -	4	3 ⁸ / ₁₀₀₀
The price quoted was - - - - -	6	3 ⁸ / ₁₀₀₀
and deducting 4s. 3 ⁸ / ₁₀₀₀ d. of duties from this, leaves 1s. 11 ⁸ / ₁₀₀₀ d. as the price of the whiskey. Mr. Gray calls it 1s. 11d. (no great difference).		

“Again, as to raw grain whiskey, the Excise duties are,

	s.	d.
Spirit duty - - - - -	3	8
Malt duty from 1 ¹ / ₄ d. to 3d., say - - -	-	2
	3	10

And deducting this from 5s. 7⁸/₁₀₀₀d. (the price quoted), leaves 1s. 9d¹/₁₀₀₀ as the price of the spirits, exclusive of Excise duties.

“If we exclude the Excise duties, the cost of making malt whiskey and raw grain whiskey is very nearly the same. The raw grain distillers were confessedly at the time in question selling their spirits considerably below prime cost, in consequence of the interference of rum and other things. Proof of this is to be found in the fact that several large establishments have within the last few weeks relinquished their operations, and retired in disgust from the trade.”

In addition to the above, we beg to state that the prices quoted in the Prices Current referred to are the prices actually realized in the market, and if necessary we are ready to refer you to the parties who obtained them.

To the Right Hon. Lord George Bentinck,
Harcourt House, London.

We have, &c.
(signed) Reid & Son.

My Lord,
I HOPE that the explanations I had the honour to send to your Lordship were satisfactory.
In his supplementary evidence, Mr. Wood attempts to account for the decrease (wastage) found in the casks of spirits imported by the “Victoria” steam-packet into London from Leith, by saying that they had been “imported in the hold of a steam-vessel, and were consequently exposed to great heat and loss *in transitu*.” A moment’s reflection will, I am sure, convince Mr. Wood that had those casks been imported in a sailing vessel, with anything like the ordinary length of voyage, the deficiency would have been much greater.
Your Lordship may not be aware that a change has been made in the rates of Canadian duties. The enclosed scale came into operation on the 5th April last. You will observe that rum is charged 1s. 3d. per old wine gallon, and that all other spirits are charged 2s. for the same gallon; and that sweetened or mixed spirits, including bitters, are charged 3s.

To the Lord George Bentinck, M. P.
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(signed) Charles Gray.

MACDOUGALL & GLASS'S CIRCULAR.

ANNUAL STATEMENTS.

IMPORTED into Canada by Sea, from 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

YEARS.	Vessels with Cargo, and in Ballast.	Wines.	East India and British Plantation Rum.	Foreign Spirits.	Whiskey.	Molasses.	SUGARS.	
							Refined.	Muscovado and Bastard.
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Lbs.	Lbs.
1838	1,091	268,419	682,736	362,735	15,371	69,257	1,769,247	4,772,863
1839	1,147	392,094	159,628	601,729	16,193	82,920	1,875,697	5,340,301
1840	1,432	310,956	59,021	535,174	23,783	146,379	1,745,822	7,471,317
1841	1,458	214,721	106,487	282,889	167	78,691	2,872,717	9,548,119
1842	1,081	300,462	52,346	221,873	9,066	117,966	1,911,670	6,857,940
1843	1,419	266,213	31,712	149,215	572	137,540	273,131	7,927,535
1844	1,420	333,271	123,687	342,794	6,423	222,836	1,610,659	11,613,684
1845	1,699	204,116	137,879	242,175	828	352,970	1,448,840	5,025,748
1846	1,699	313,076	63,389	159,547	4,058	151,675	895,046	8,546,982
1847	1,434	220,565	102,767	185,367	683	365,450	880,305	8,719,099

Montreal, 25 March 1848.

TABLE of CUSTOMS DUTIES, under the Act 10 & 11 Vict. c. 31 and 32, for Repealing and Consolidating the Present Duties of Customs in the Province of Canada, and for other Purposes therein mentioned; to take effect on 5th April 1848.

ARTICLES.	CURRENCY		
	£.	s.	d.
Coffee:			
Green, the lb.	-	-	1 ½
Roasted, the lb.	-	-	2 ½
Ground, the lb.	-	-	4
Rum:			
For every gallon (of old wine measure) proof by Sykes' hydrometer, all Spirits above that strength to be reduced to equivalent of proof	-	1	3
Sweetened or Mixed, per gallon	-	3	-
Spirits:			
Except Rum, as of proof, the old wine gallon	-	2	-
Sweetened or Mixed, including Bitters, per gallon	-	3	-
Sugar:			
Refined or Candy, per cwt.	-	1	7 6
Muscovado, per cwt.	-	15	3
Clayed Sugar (10 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i>), and per cwt.	-	15	3
Bastard, per cwt. (and 10 <i>l.</i> for every 100 <i>l.</i> value)	-	12	-
In which are Preserves, per cwt.	-	1	6 6
Succades, including confectionery, 20 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> , and on the lb.	-	-	2
Syrups, except spirits, the gallon	-	-	1 -
Tea, the lb.	-	-	½

Articles subject to a Duty of 10 per Cent.

Bastard sugar, together with 12*s.* per cwt., and clayed sugar, with 15*s.* 3*d.* per cwt.

Articles subject to a Duty of 20 per Cent.

Succades and confectionery made of sugar, either in whole or in part, in addition to 2*d.* per lb.

Montreal, Saturday Evening, 25 March 1848.

HAVING at length obtained official data to complete our statement of imports and exports, we avail ourselves of the earliest opportunity of publishing our annual circular and comparative tables.

This year, we may remark, we have much satisfaction in being able to give the imports inland in addition to those by sea, to the latter of which our tables have hitherto been exclusively confined.

The imports inland, of sugar, coffee, tea and tobacco, it will be observed, are in most instances much larger than by sea, while in all articles they form a large proportion of the whole import of the province; thus showing that the markets of the United States are the cheapest and most convenient that the merchants of Canada can resort to.

On comparing the importations of a few of the more important articles by sea for the past two years, we obtain the following results:—Against 313,076 gallons of wine imported in 1846, we have 229,595 gallons in 1847. In spirits of all kinds, exclusive of whiskey, and East and West India rum, we have 159,547 gallons in 1846, against 185,367 gallons in 1847. In molasses, 151,675 gallons, against 365,450 gallons. In refined sugar, 805,046 lbs. against 880,305 lbs. In muscovado and bastard sugars, 8,546,982 lbs. against 8,719,099 lbs. In coffee, 105,282 lbs. against 261,444 lbs. In tea, 603,038 lbs. against 816,866 lbs. In salt, 345,396 bushels (equal to 11,513 tons) against 87,880 bushels (equal to 2,929 tons). And in goods paying *ad valorem* duties, 2,241,157*l.* sterling against 1,783,682 *l.* sterling.

IMPORTS Inland in 1847, in addition to those by Sea.

Wine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	gallons	6,136
Spirits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	"	87,789
Molasses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	"	121,805
Sugar,—											
Refined	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	lbs.	107,780
Muscovado	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	"	5,426,914
Coffee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	829,368

Macdougall & Glass, Brokers.

SLAVE TRADE AND SLAVE TRADE TREATIES.

THE summary of Lord Palmerston's evidence is, that at this moment Great Britain is under obligation to the United States of America to maintain a force equal to 80 guns; that the Treaty by which that obligation was imposed upon her was signed in 1842 for five years, at the termination of which period it was left in the power of either party to terminate the arrangement by giving one year's notice. That period of five years having now elapsed, it would remain only for Great Britain to give the required notice, and in one year she could terminate that Treaty. Already the United States has so far neglected the full performance of her part of the Treaty, that, instead of 80 guns, she is at this time maintaining but two ships of war, one of 22 guns and the other of 10 guns, making 32 guns in the aggregate. It is clear, therefore, that the United States could not object to the immediate termination of those obligations.

With respect to France, by a Treaty concluded in 1845 both countries are laid under a reciprocal obligation to maintain 26 ships of war, no amount of guns being specified. The duration for that Treaty is fixed for 10 years, and would expire in 1855; but in the course of the year 1850 the high contracting parties are entitled to concert together anew, and to decide according to circumstances whether it is fitting either to put again in force the whole or part of certain Conventions contracted in 1831 and 1833, which were the Treaties giving the mutual Right of Search.

No other Treaties subsist between Great Britain and foreign countries laying her under obligations to maintain any naval or military force for the suppression of the Slave Trade. England, consequently, is under no obligation to maintain a larger force than 26 vessels of war of the smallest calibre; and from that obligation she has the power and the right to release herself two years hence; and Your Committee have learned from Captain Matson, (the whole of whose evidence, as that of an officer distinguished as the most successful of the enterprising men who have been engaged in that arduous service on the coast of Africa, having captured to his own flag 40 slavers,) that, in his opinion, small vessels are those best calculated for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

It appears by Returns laid before Parliament in the course of last year, that the Naval Expenditure on the coast of Africa alone amounted to upwards of 300,000 £; but by a Return presented in the year 1845, it would seem that no less a sum than 706,000 £. was expended upon the Naval Service devoted to the abolition of the Slave Trade. Your House is already aware that there are many other contingent expenses connected with the abolition of this trade; such as the maintenance of establishments at Sierra Leone, Fernando Po, Cape Coast, and Ascension; of Mixed Courts, Admiralty Courts, maintenance of Liberated Africans, Head Money for captured Negroes, and other unascertained expenses, which together constitute a very large annual expenditure, from which, if it should so seem fit to this House, a very large deduction might be made for assistance to the British Free-labour Sugar-growing Colonies. The House will learn from the examination of the evidence of Captain Denman, Captain Matson, and Surgeon M'Crae, of the Cygnet, all officers engaged on the African coast, that the force heretofore employed has been altogether inadequate to the successful fulfilment of that service; and they will learn from the two last of these officers, as well as from the evidence of Senhor Cliffe, an American by birth, now a Brazilian citizen, formerly engaged as surgeon on board the Brazilian navy, but also himself engaged at times in the Slave Trade, that the horrors of the Slave Trade have been incalculably aggravated by the Blockade Service; and far from being diminished, it appears to be daily growing in magnitude. It would seem from the evidence of Senhor José Cliffe, that it can scarcely be supposed that less than 100,000 negroes left the shores of Africa in the year 1847 for Brazil alone. Of those he estimates that about 28,000 died upon the passage, 72,000 were landed, and not more than 60,000 or 65,000 lived to be entered for sale.

Mr. Richard Farrer, a Brazilian merchant, speaking of one of the slavers, in answer to a question whether he thought them very fit for passenger vessels, he said: "Certainly not. There was a little thing came in one day which had several hundreds in her; she was not as long as this room; they were in a shocking condition." He says: "I have seen them in an excellent condition, as fat and flourishing as they could be after a favourable voyage, but others you would think probably could not live." Asked if they generally arrive in a tolerably good condition. He answers, "Latterly they have not done so." Asked if his impression is, that the import of slaves is on the increase in the Brazils. He answers: "I do not know; I should think it is very likely, from the feeling that was prevailing when I left the Brazils. People seemed then resolved to get as many slaves as they could." Asked for what purpose? "For the purpose of working still more land." Asked whether it is for Coffee? "Coffee and Sugar; there are a great many other cultivations besides Sugar and Coffee." Asked if there is any free labour employed in Brazil? He answers, "It is entirely slave labour." Asked, What is the current opinion in Brazil with reference to the interference of England? He answers, "They cannot think that England is sincere."

Lord Howden reports that, up to the 12th of November, it was estimated that 50,000 slaves had been imported into Brazil, and Lord Palmerston here-upon calculates that about 60,000 would be imported in the course of the entire year. It would seem, at the same time, that notwithstanding this enormous trade, and all the expense incurred in putting it down, that in the year 1846 the British cruisers succeeded in capturing but 2,788 slaves, of whom but 2,472 lived to be emancipated; and in 1847 they succeeded in capturing 2,889 slaves, of whom but 2,152 survived to be liberated. The evidence of Senhor Cliffe and Captain Matson, and of Surgeon M'Crae, combine in giving the most unequivocal but the most painful proofs of the aggravated horrors inflicted upon these wretched Africans by the interference of the blockading squadron. The greatest sufferings of these wretched people arise from the crowded state of the ships in which they are imported, the short supply, and raw state of the provisions with which they are furnished on the voyage, but worse than all from the stinted supply of water with which they are provided. All these hardships are forced upon the traders by the necessity imposed upon them in endeavouring to elude the British cruisers, to hazard their voyages encumbered with as few cooking utensils and as few water-casks as possible. The Equipment Articles in the Slave Trade Abolition Treaties subject all vessels to capture coming to the coast of Africa found with more water casks or provisions on board than would be sufficient for the supply of a regular crew for an ordinary voyage across the Atlantic. The effect of these Ordinances is, that the slavers, in the ordinary course, limit the slaves to but "one drink, consisting of a pint, ~~per~~ day," calculating the voyage at about 25 days; but should calms, so prevalent on the coast of Africa, delay the voyage, the necessarily fatal and horrible sequel is, that the most excruciating sufferings, ending in a fearful mortality, ensues. Senhor José Cliffe, himself a medical man, states "that water is an exceedingly scarce article in the pre-sent run of slavers, and he knew a case in which only 10 slaves escaped out of 160, and that was a vessel belonging to a friend of his own; and the 10 that did escape arrived in so miserable a state that they were sold for 37 l." Discoursing upon the subject with professional knowledge, he scientifically observes, "The greater portion of the cruelties and deaths arising in the course of the Slave Trade are caused, more than anything else, by the want of water, because in the Tropics very little food will sustain the system when the system is in a state of torpidity; and when the air is exceedingly foul the functions of life become very considerably diminished; absorption takes place of any portion of fat that they have, and they can resist the want of food for some time; but the want of water is a thing not to be resisted in the Tropics." Speaking of the mode in which the slaves are packed, he says, "That it has been described to him, though he has never seen it done, that they are laid upon their sides parallel to each other; they are generally boys from 10 to 12 years of age, and if they do not lie parallel upon their sides, a plank is put upon them, and a sailor will get upon it and jam them down, so as to make them fit compact." "He has never seen it done, but he has heard slaves speak of it, and heard captains state it, who he knows

knows could have no object in stating it if it were not true." Captain Matson confirms this statement by saying "they are packed like salt fish." Surgeon M'Crac's evidence on this head is, "They are packed very close; they are laid down and built into each other as close as they could be, generally speaking." Speaking of the condition in which the slaves arrive in Brazil, Dr. Cliffe says: "There are some with more iron constitutions than others; but to see them, they look horrible; the bones of the knees stand out and look like large knobs, the calf of the leg has disappeared, it looks more like the leg of a monkey than anything else, and you can count all the bones; the abdomen is very much bloated, and there is an imbecility in the eye; in fact, nature is reduced to the lowest point." Contrasting the sufferings of these African captives under the present Regulations for the suppression of the Slave Trade with their condition in the olden time before 1830, before those measures were taken, he tells us: "That he has known as many as 560 slaves landed, with a loss of six or seven, which is about," he says, "the same loss which has occurred with those that were landed from an Irish emigrant ship, or perhaps less, because they would be better treated, and there would be plenty of provisions on board, the object of the party being to feed them well, so as to have them in good condition when they arrived."

The House is aware, from papers in its Library, that the ordinary calculation of average mortality on board a slaver was only eight per cent. in the old times, when the Slave Trade was an encouraged national trade regulated by law.

In proof of the progress which the Slave Trade has made, in spite of the British Blockade Service, Senhor José Cliffe states that the price of slaves, which in 1844 had got up from 800 to 900 millereas a piece, a millerea being about 87., had fallen to 400 millereas when he last heard from Brazil; and that he expected by May next, from the extensive preparations being then carried on, that the price of slaves would be down to 300 millereas, which would be equal to 247. It will be seen from the evidence of Captain Denman, the most sanguine of all the Witnesses Your Committee examined, as to the possibility of putting down the Slave Trade by force, that he admits that on that part of the coast at Gallinas which was under his immediate superintendence, two slavers escaped in 10 months; that for the blockade of that part of the coast, extending only for 40 miles, he had a force of 135 men. The coast of Africa, extending for upwards of 5,000 miles, it is clear, from the circumstance that to blockade the coast with no more efficacy than that described, it would take, at the same rate of force that Captain Denman had, nearly 17,000 men to effect anything approaching to an efficient blockade; and yet, when all was done, it would seem that 250 slavers might escape in the course of every 10 months, even under Captain Denman's *modus operandi*.

Captain Matson gave it as his opinion to the Committee that double the force employed would not be successful in annihilating the Slave Trade. Surgeon M'Crac says, "I do not know that we have ships sufficient to do it, "at least we are not likely to send a sufficient number to suppress it."

He adds, "I do not think the attempt (*i. e.* to put down the Slave Trade) "has done any good. I think it has increased the sufferings of the Slaves."

Your Committee subsequently examined Sir Henry Vere Huntley, R. N., from 1830 to 1838, with very little intermission, in command of a ship on the coast of Africa; and in 1841 Lieutenant-governor of the settlements on the Gambia.

Sir Henry Huntley's Evidence will lead The House to the conclusion that if the national policy, with regard to Slave Trading, instead of being scared by the hideous name of Slave dealing, will condescend and be content to be governed by realities, and by the sterling interests of civilization and true humanity; looking the matter calmly, and in the spirit of truth, in the face, little difficulty will present itself in obtaining plenty of African recruits "*very well satisfied with their condition*," in being enlisted, not as Dutch soldiers but as English free labourers, to go out to the British West Indies. This must be done by entering into treaties with the King of Ashantee and other African chiefs, in imitation of the example set by the King of Holland.

He gave it as his opinion to the Committee that the liberated Africans from Sierra Leone were unfit for immigrants; but he thought a large number might

be obtained from the Kroo coast. He would recommend none but Kroomen. He thought they could not be obtained from any other part of the coast, unless they were obtained from the chief by paying money for them, which, in his opinion, would be a decided renewal of the internal Slave Trade in Africa. He stated that in the year 1836 or 1837 he boarded a Dutch ship with between 300 and 400 negroes on board; they were under the charge of a military officer, who stated that he had taken them on board at Elmina, a Dutch settlement on the coast; that they had been received from the King of Ashantee, and that a doubloon a head had been paid to the King of Ashantee for them; they were going to Java as recruits for the Dutch army in that colony. He expressed his opinion, that to all intents and purposes they had been purchased from the King of Ashantee, and that he had sold them as slaves. When asked if those negroes were apparently prisoners on board the Dutch ship when he boarded her, he answered that they did not appear to be prisoners; they were in charge of a military officer, and as far as he saw anything to the contrary, they were *very well satisfied with their condition*; that they were not at all treated as slaves on board; the deck was crowded with them; they were not chained or treated in any way as slaves in a slave ship; they were apparently under no more coercion than a regiment of infantry; they were sitting about perfectly free on the deck, but that they had been purchased from the King, he thought there could be no doubt. He stated that the doubloon a head was paid in English merchandize, and the per-centage on English goods would generally in those cases amount to 150 per cent., therefore the doubloon paid in goods would really amount to very little; a doubloon is 3*l.* 16*s.*; 150 per cent. off that would leave about 1*l.* 10*s.* as the price of the slave. Asked if the character of the people on the Gambia is abject; he answered, certainly not, "the Mandingo is a man capable of great exertion; and not only of exertion, but he is a man of intellect; he is far superior to that which you generally find on the coast of Africa; indeed as you travel from the southern part of the western coast to the northward, so the intellect is found to increase until you get up to the Moors." He expressed his opinion that Captain Matson was decidedly a very good authority with reference to the coast of Africa.

Under these circumstances, it appears to Your Committee that the present proceeding for the abolition of the Slave Trade is at once as futile as it is expensive, and fraught with aggravated misery to those unhappy beings whose sufferings it was designed not only to mitigate but altogether to prevent; and Your Committee, with sadness contrasting now the audacious, rank, and extraordinary rifeness and activity of the Slave Trade, stimulated in 1847 by the enormous gains of the slave-holding and slave-dealing Sugar planters of Brazil and of Cuba, at the last advices still "*shipping their sugars day and night,*" with "*its altogether diminishing amount,*" as reported by the West Coast of Africa Committee in 1842, consequent in part "*upon the then depressed condition of the Sugar planters of Cuba and Brazil,*" conclude by expressing their strong opinion that the far better mode of diminishing the profits of the Slave Trade and mitigating its horrors would be to apply the monies so uselessly and so cruelly wasted in attempting to put down the Slave Trade by force, to the assistance of the cultivators of Free-labour Sugar, in competing against their rivals, who are now cultivating more cheaply by means of Slave Labour.

The miscellaneous expenditure, exclusive of any Naval, Military, or Ordnance expenditure, incurred in connexion with the suppression of the Slave Trade, of which Your Committee have information, has been in the aggregate of the last four years 758,095 *l.* 3*s.*, averaging 189,028 *l.* a year.

CEYLON.

COFFEE PLANTING.

ALTHOUGH Your Committee have already incidentally given you some evidence of the condition of the coffee planters in the British West Indies, showing that ever since emancipation the cultivation of Coffee in the British West Indies has been in a state of rapid decay, the Coffee plantations being quite unequal to compete with slave produce at the high price of wages demanded by the emancipated negroes, Your Committee have thus far said little upon this subject, having come to the conclusion that Coffee Planting, with the exception of some few of those plantations producing the very finest qualities of Coffee, must be looked upon as irrevocably annihilated in the old colonies. But Your Committee have had before them two most intelligent witnesses, full of information upon the subject of coffee planting in the island of Ceylon, which for the last few years must be looked upon as the great site of the British cultivation of that plant. They first called before them Robert Christian, esq., a partner in the firm of A. R. Crowe & Co., in Colombo, and Alexander Crowe & Co., the corresponding firm in London. This gentleman had been a resident six years at Ceylon, between the years 1838 and 1844. The firm with which he was concerned purchased in all nearly 30,000 acres of land from the government, at a cost of about 6s. an acre upon the average: they have since sold a great part of it. Mr. Christian informed the Committee that the government afterwards increased the upset price of their land from 6s. to 1 l. an acre; and, of course, the value of land in the island immediately rose, and the firm of which he was a partner seized the opportunity of selling off a considerable portion of their first purchase; and they are not now interested in more than 5,000 acres altogether. He informed the Committee that the Coffee Tree was a plant that took five years to arrive at full maturity; that it did not come into bearing at all till the end of three years; and it was generally calculated at Ceylon that it would wear out in about 20 years. He said that, inasmuch as the great expenses of a Coffee estate, prior to its bearing fruit, arose from the necessity of constantly weeding it, there must be a continual annual expenditure upon a Coffee estate before there was any return at all. Asked what were the inducements which caused the company to embark in Coffee cultivation; he says, there were 36 or 37 different companies who so embarked; that the inducements were the falling off of the production of Coffee in the West India islands, the large protecting duty which British Plantation Coffee then enjoyed, and the high price consequent upon those joint circumstances; the first of which arose out of the emancipation of the slaves in the West Indies: those causes induced them to embark in the cultivation of Coffee. He explained to the Committee that up to the year 1842, after Ceylon was put upon the same footing as the other British colonies, the duties were upon Colonial Coffee 6 d.; on what was called East India Coffee 9 d., and on Foreign Coffee 1 s. 3 d.: Ceylon ranked as Colonial Coffee. The duty was altered in 1842 to 4 d. on Colonial Coffee and 8 d. on all Foreign Coffee, from whatever port it came. A subsequent alteration took place in 1844, which left Colonial Coffee at a duty of 4 d., but reduced Foreign Coffee to 6 d. He explained to the Committee that though the duty on Foreign Coffee was nominally 1 s. 3 d. previous to 1842, apparently giving them a protection of 9 d., and was reduced to 8 d. in 1842, practically they did not esteem that the protection was anything like 9 d., for that a great quantity of Coffee from Rio Janeiro, but, as The House will be aware, more especially from Java, was imported by the Cape of Good Hope, being landed there, and afterwards admitted at the duty on East Indian Coffee 9 d.; the effect of which was, that whilst there might be some extra freight not exceeding half a farthing a pound, by the effect of the evasion they saved the difference between 1 s. 3 d. and 9 d. He stated that the colonists considered that the spirit and intention of the Act were defeated for want of a trifling amendment; that a fraud was committed upon the spirit of the Act, from the circumstance that the words "British Plantation growth or produce" had been accidentally omitted; so that, practically, they considered that the Act of 1842 placed them "fully in as good a position as regarded duty" as they were before. He then gave the prices of Coffee as follows:—

R. Christian, Esq.

Ceylon Coffee.

Great expense of establishing a coffee plantation.

Inducements which led to the establishment of coffee plantations in Ceylon.

The Act of 1842, reducing the duty on foreign Coffee from 1 s. 3 d. to 8 d. was no injury, because the previous duty had been fraudulently evaded by Java Coffee.

Prices of Coffee.	In 1838	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	s.
	1839	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80
	1840	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	102
	1841	it had fallen to	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	99
	1842	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61
	1843	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	78
	1844, up to March	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55
	It fell in that year, about the months of May and June, to	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68
										50

Reduced price of Coffee subsequent to the reduction of duty on foreign Coffee from 8 d. to 6 d.

That was after the reduction of duty on Foreign Coffee from 8 d. to 6 d.

In 1845	it fell to	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	s.
1846	it remained at	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46
1847	it fell to	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46
1848	to the present time it is hardly worth as much as	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43
									32

He then states, that in consequence of those very high prices which prevailed in 1838-39-41, there was a very large capital invested in the cultivation of Coffee; and not only every facility was given by the local government of Ceylon to the planter, but every possible encouragement was held out to purchase land from the Government, and to invest capital in cultivating Coffee or any other produce. There was a land-tax on the cultivation of Rice, but none on Coffee or any other lands, "and various promises of making roads and other improvements in the country were given to the planters; and, in fact, the governors of the island themselves were among the first growers of Coffee; the secretaries to the governor, all the government agents, and many of the judges, the archdeacon, and a number of the clergy; in fact, everybody in Ceylon purchased land at the time, and began growing Coffee. The late archdeacon was one of the largest growers of Coffee in the island." He said, that if prices had remained what they were in 1838, Coffee planting would have been very profitable; that the amount of capital expended in its cultivation was very large. He has had no means of ascertaining further than a mere estimate; he has seen various estimates, making it from two and a half to three millions sterling, invested in the Coffee plantations of Ceylon. He states that in the year 1838, about which time there was scarcely any European Coffee grown, the natives sent home 2,500 tons of Coffee from Ceylon. That the last crop sent home, the crop of 1846-47, as they call it, consisted of—

Grown by the natives	-	-	-	7,173 tons.
Produce of European cultivation	-	-	-	5,309 „

Increase in the exports of Coffee from Ceylon.

Making together - - - 12,482

Consumption of Coffee in Great Britain.

He states that the total consumption of Great Britain in 1847 was	-	-	-	-	16,677 tons.
Of this, the consumption of British Coffee was,	-	-	-	-	12,067 „
Of Foreign Coffee	-	-	-	-	4,610 „
					<u>16,677</u>

The entire importation of British-grown Coffee was, however, 15,285 tons reaching within 1,492 tons of the whole consumption of Great Britain.

Thus he showed that had the home market not been interfered with by foreign Coffee, the entire British Colonial Coffee would have found a demand and a market, whilst the colonial supply would, within a trifle, have been equal to the English demand.

Produce of Coffee per 650 acres.

He showed that upon the cultivation of between 650 and 700 acres, producing a crop of 4,314 cwt. of Coffee, allowing for the interest of capital laid out,

out, the cost of cultivation, and all freight and charges, the cost laid down in London would be 57 s. 4 d., whereas the same Coffee was selling in London for 45 s. 6 d., leaving a loss of 11 s. 10 d. a cwt., which, upon the crop of which he was speaking, would amount to 2,500 l. He stated that if things went on in that way, the best plan for him would be to abandon the property. Asked what the rate of interest in Ceylon for money lent on mortgage was? He answered the interest varied from 7 to 10 per cent., but he did not think that the Coffee planter could borrow money at Ceylon, nor could he borrow it here upon the security of his Coffee estate just now at less than seven per cent. Asked if he could borrow it at any other per-centage? He answered, "Not from a party who was acquainted with the state of matters in Ceylon," he thought. Asked if he had any calculation to show what the gross loss upon the crop of 1847 of the Island would be? He answered that any calculation must be very general, but that he thinks it cannot be assumed that the last crop was collected at a less loss than 15 l. a ton to the planter, which upon 12,482 tons, the produce of the Island, would represent a loss of 187,000 l. He was asked if the effect of this disastrous fall in the price of produce had caused the failure of a great many Ceylon firms? He answered, "It has caused the failure of several firms in London connected with Ceylon, and it has, no doubt, partly caused the failure of some other East India houses who were interested in Ceylon; they were corresponding houses of firms in Ceylon as well as in the Mauritius." He is asked to state the houses that failed connected with Ceylon in any way, and he says they were Cockerell, Larpent & Co., though not largely. Scott, Bell & Co. also connected with Ceylon; the firm of Boyds & Thomas, and of Lawrence, Phillipps & Sons. Hudson, Chandler & Co.; the liabilities of the last amount to 218,840 l. He is asked if, in proportion as the cultivation of Ceylon progressed, the export of British manufactures to Ceylon increased; he states that he finds the exports from England of cotton goods did increase from the year 1838, in which they amounted to 45,000 l., to 130,000 l. in 1845; the last year, they had fallen to 70,000 l. He states that in 1839 the total exports of the Island amounted to 330,000 l. In 1845 they reached to 530,000 l. In 1846 they had fallen off to 497,000 l. He states that the Government and Military expenditure of the Island had increased with corresponding rapidity; that the expenditure in the year 1841 was 361,000 l., in 1845 it was 448,000 l. He states that this expenditure in 1845 was thus made up:—

Cost of producing Coffee and delivering it in bond in London
Loss at present prices, 11 s. 10 d. per cwt.

Interest of money in Ceylon on mortgage

The loss on Ceylon coffee a cause of embarrassment to the houses which trade

Expenditure for local government in Ceylon

Salaries of Governor, civil servants and all other civil charges	£.	s.	d.
- - - - -	328,136	7	2
Military and Commissariat charges paid by the Island	-	-	-
- - - - -	120,096	4	8
Making a total expenditure of	£. 448,232	11	10

By a Return laid before the Committee from the Colonial Office, it seems that—

The expenditure for the year ending 30th June 1847, amounted to	£.	s.	d.
- - - - -	796,307	3	6
The receipts for the same period were	-	711,564	18 9
Showing a deficiency of	-	£. 84,742	4 9

The witness stated that a considerable portion of the revenue was raised from the land tax upon the Rice lands, which he thought, one year with another, gave from 45,000 l. to 50,000 l., and that there was also an import duty on Rice of 7 d. a bushel, which he thought yielded annually about the same sum, so that the two duties on Rice together would yield about 90,000 l. a year. The average importation of Rice for the last few years was about two millions and a half of bushels. The value of Rice and other grain imported into Ceylon from India, according to the Government Returns, valued by the Ceylon Custom House, at the average of 3 s. 6 d. a bushel, were as follows:

VALUE of RICE and other GRAIN Imported into Ceylon from India, by Government Returns ; valued by the Ceylon Custom House at an average of 3s. 6d. per bushel.

	1839.	1840.	1841.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1846.
Rice and other Grain - - }	£. 242,594	£. 270,313	£. 239,305	£. 248,363	£. 334,346	£. 350,231	£. 459,262	£. 430,177

He is asked if the Committee might suppose the payment made by Ceylon to India for Rice is about 300,000*l.* a year. He answers: "Not quite so much as that, because from the valuation there stated various charges have to be deducted, and the valuation is high."

Injurious effect of the proposed land tax.

A great deal of labour in Ceylon is derived from Coolies from India

Wages in Ceylon.

Number of labourers employed on Mr. Christian's estate

Salt tax in Ceylon very oppressive to the people.

Unless the price of Coffee is altered two-thirds will go out of cultivation.

The Witness then stated that there had great alterations taken place in the tariff which came into operation in the beginning of January this year, the result being, generally, an increase on the duties of the imported article, rather in contrast with the policy of the Imperial Government. He also stated that he understood that it was proposed to levy a tax on all lands cultivated and uncultivated. It had been stated that at present there was only a tax upon the rice lands; it was now proposed to levy a tax of 3*s.* an acre on cultivated lands, and 1*s.* an acre on all waste lands, and that surveys were going on for this purpose. He did not himself accord with the wisdom of this policy; he could not conceive what object any proprietor of waste land would have in retaining the land and paying the tax of 1*s.* an acre upon it; and he thought that the tax would be very expensive to collect; that the natives held a great proportion of the cultivated land of Ceylon, and that any such attempt as this would lead to many disputes. The natives were exceedingly tenacious of anything they considered to be oppressive on the part of the Government, frequently going to courts of law against the Government. That this land-tax was supposed to be a commutation for the export duty of two and a half per cent. upon the produce of the island; but in his opinion it would just come to this, that as far as the position of the planters of Ceylon was concerned, it would take the place of the old export duty, and be no alleviation to their position. Asked how the cultivation of the island is carried on; he states that they have no difficulty in procuring plenty of labour; that it is chiefly derived from the coast of India; the Coolies come over and work in Ceylon for various periods, some six months, some twelve months, and some two years; that they never bring their wives and families with them. Their not doing so is the only grievance the planters have to complain of in the way of cheap labour, for they have to employ adult Coolies where women and children in many cases would do the work just as well, and a great deal cheaper. He considers that the high tax upon Rice lands, and the high duty upon Rice, is one reason why the Coolies are averse to bringing over their families with them. The wages vary from 6*d.* to 8*d.* a day. In the year ending the 3d of September 1843, there came over 35,399 Coolies, of whom 34,080 were men, 517 women, 402 children, and they chiefly came from the Malabar coast. There are no difficulties thrown in the way of immigrants; they come over free in the ferry-boats provided by the Ceylon Government, or if not free the government charge a very small sum of probably 1*d.* a head. The ferry-boats are large native boats, having decks. He is asked how many labourers he employed upon his estate? He said between 3,500 and 4,000 people at one time. Among the oppressive taxes in Ceylon is the duty on Salt; it is a tax in the shape of a government monopoly. "They manufacture the Salt, and sell it to you at 4*d.* a bushel if you export it from the island; but the average charge, if the Salt is to be used in the island, is 2*s.* 4*d.* a bushel. This is a tax felt to be very oppressive by the people, as they eat a great deal of Salt with their Rice; and it is a tax that presses so much more upon the poorer classes than the rich." He says that he has come to the conclusion, that unless the price of Coffee very much improves two-thirds of the island will go out of cultivation. He is asked what remedy he sees which might be adopted to prevent any such disastrous occurrence as this? He says he has no doubt that if the differential duty were again increased, as the entire production of British plantation

plantation Coffee is not equal to the consumption, at least it is not now, though if it had prospered in Ceylon it would soon have become so, that would have the effect of raising British Coffee very considerably, more particularly if it were altered in this way by a reduction of the duty on British Plantation, instead of raising the duty on foreign.

Asked if this would not incur a great loss of revenue? He answers, "It would for a time; but the question seems to me whether for a time the island must not become a charge upon the mother country."

Asked if a reduction of 2*d.* a pound upon 34,000,000 lbs. of Coffee would be about 275,000*l.*? He answers, "Presuming the consumption not to increase." But he goes on to say that if nothing is done to save the Coffee planters of Ceylon a very large portion of the expenditure of the island of Ceylon will fall upon the Government of this country, that is to say, if they determine to retain Ceylon as a colony; if it be abandoned of course the expense will be saved. Speaking of the great increase of the expenditure of the island, he says that whilst the Colonial Secretary formerly had 2,000*l.* a year, he finds he has now 2,500*l.* a year. Speaking of the office of Surveyor-general, he says that this department, which used to consist of one surveyor and his assistant, with about 1,000*l.* a year, has grown to nine persons, with, he supposes, although he does not actually know, about 4,000*l.* a year. Without entering into further detail about the expenses of this island, Your Committee can only say they are well worthy a jealous investigation on the part of The House.

If nothing is done a large amount of expenditure will fall upon this country for the purpose of supporting the island.

The other Witness Your Committee examined was Philip Anstruther, Esq., for 15 years Colonial Secretary in Ceylon, whence he came home to England in 1845. Previous to 1830 he had been 10 years in the Civil Service, from which he rose to be Colonial Secretary. He is also proprietor of a Coffee estate of about 300 acres, not yet in full bearing, but calculated to give about 2,400 cwt. Asked what tempted him to go into the speculation of Coffee; if it were the high prices consequent upon the falling off of the Coffee cultivation in the British West Indies, following upon the emancipation of the slaves; he stated that in 1840 he was in England on leave of absence, and not intending to go back to Ceylon, he was, however, tempted to give up his intention of retiring from the service, and to go back, in consequence of a statement which he read to the Committee, of the produce of the estate of a Mr. Turner, who was afterwards Colonial Secretary, and the first Coffee cultivator in Ceylon, which was as follows:—

P. Anstruther, Esq.

	Produce.	Yielded Net in London, after paying all Expenses in this Country.
	Cwt.	£.
In 1837 - - - -	39	192
In 1838 - - - -	311	1,424
In 1839 - - - -	367	2,500
In 1843 - - - -	765	Instead of yielding 2,500 <i>l.</i> , which it would at those prices, would only yield £. 1,400

Asked if that is a price which would remunerate the planter for the cost of cultivation? he answers, not within 8*s.* or 10*s.* a cwt., exclusive of the interest on capital laid out. He considers that the best estate, under the most favourable circumstances, at this moment must lose 10*s.* a cwt., or 4*l.* an acre. He is asked if a protection of 2*d.* a lb. is equal to 18*s.* 8*d.* a cwt. He answers, Yes, if they could get 2*d.* a lb. more for their coffee, long price, they should then be making sufficient profit. He is then asked if, in point of fact, it is the last reduction of the protecting duty from 4*d.* to 2*d.* that has just made the difference of his estate being very profitable or very ruinous. He answers, "Very much that; but also the anticipation of further reductions, which prevents any one buying more than enough to go on from hand to mouth, and also the over-cultivation which has ensued; all three causes operate." He goes on to say that notwithstanding the enormous increased production of Ceylon, the production of the British possessions put together do not yet come

The present low price rates, partly because the duty on foreign Coffee was reduced 2*d.* per lb., and partly because an expectation of a further reduction of duty on foreign Coffee checks sales.

up to the consumption of the country in their produce by 4,000 tons, and that to a great extent it is the 4,000 or 5,000 tons of foreign Coffee that elbow and push them out of the market, which prevent their still getting a remunerating price. Asked if there were an extra protection of 2 *d.* a lb. that would give the Ceylon coffee planters the enjoyment of the British market for the whole of their produce, instead of being pushed out by foreigners? he answers, "It would at present; but it could not last long, the production is going on so very rapidly." But asked if he was understood correctly to say that for the last two or three years there had been no increase in the planting? he answers, "There has been none; and now, in consequence of the low prices, there will be a great diminution." Asked if there are still more plantations to come into full bearing which were planted during the high prices, or if they are pretty much now in full bearing? he answers, "There are a great many to come into full bearing yet; BUT I THINK A GREAT MANY MORE WILL BE TOTALLY DESTROYED BY ABANDONMENT IN THE COURSE OF THIS YEAR. I SHOULD THINK THAT IN THE COURSE OF THIS YEAR AND THE NEXT, AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS OF ALL THE PLANTATIONS IN CEYLON, WHICH HAVE COST ABOUT TWO MILLIONS OF MONEY, MUST BE ABANDONED, AND THE PRODUCTION CEASES IMMEDIATELY ON ABANDONMENT." Asked what the effect of that would be upon the revenue of the island? He answers, "It MUST BE TOTALLY RUINED; IN FACT, THE COLONY IS, I KNOW, AT THIS MOMENT BANKRUPT." Asked if he means to say, he knows that the colony is at this moment bankrupt? he answers, "I know that it is bankrupt. There was a report, I believe, that they had not quite the means of paying the public servants in January; but I have a memorandum here, which I know to be true, of the state of the revenue and expenditure up to September 1847; it shows that their expenditure was very large, but the deficit was also very large. Up to September 1847, the revenue was 327,199 *l.*, the expenditure was 366,525 *l.*, leaving a deficit of 39,326 *l.* on nine months." Asked if that must not be paid by the British Government? He answers, "The British Government must either pay it, or the colony must be put in the *Gazette*. The British Government have said hitherto, that they will not pay; I do not know whether they will." Asked if the duty were to be reduced 2 *d.* a pound upon British Colonial Coffee, equal to 18 *l.* 13 *s.* 4 *d.* a ton, and the present duty on foreign Coffee were to remain where it is, the effect would be at once to set up the Colony of Ceylon? He answers, "*It would very likely do so.*" Asked if instead of being bankrupt, all the plantations would continue in full cultivation, and as long as there was that full cultivation, bring a profit that was quite equal to paying its whole revenue? He answers, "When I left Ceylon in 1845, when Coffee was very flourishing, there was a surplus of revenue of from 50,000 *l.* to 70,000 *l.* a year; and I left in the cash chest when I came away about a quarter of a million."

Probability of extensive abandonment of Coffee cultivation in Ceylon if present prices continue to rule.

Considerable deficit in the revenue of Ceylon.

Comparison of the financial condition of Ceylon in 1845 and 1847.

Asked if the expenditure was equal to what it is now? He answers, "The expenditure was not quite so great, but it was sufficient. I do not know how the expenditure is so great as it is, but we then spent a very large sum upon roads. I think less in salaries than we now spend, but more upon roads." Told that Mr. Christian had reckoned that the loss this year in the colony in Coffee would be equivalent to 186,000 *l.* Asked if he makes out that it would be something to that amount? He answers, "The loss to the European cultivators; I think the European cultivators will send this year about 7,000 tons, and the loss would be very great supposing the estates were all in full bearing, which they are not: for instance, I lost last year myself 2,000 *l.* on my estate." Asked how that was? He says, "It is not quite in full bearing; and the majority are not in full bearing, and they will be abandoned before they are in full bearing. I saw a merchant this morning who began an estate at the same time that I did, and it is in the same condition, I believe, as my own. He has sent out orders to diminish his expenditure to a mere trifle, with a view of saving this year's crop, and then letting it go wild." Asked if the fact is not that the man who saves in expenditure really saves by ceasing to weed his plantation? He answers, "Yes; it must go to total ruin." Asked if the result is not that in about six months the jungle gets up, and the convolvulus grows, and the trees die? He answers, "Yes. I am going out this mail, with a view of deciding whether I shall not totally abandon my estate as soon as the crop comes

If the Coffee estate is unweeded, the trees die.

comes in. That will be a loss to me of about 15,000*l.* I do not wish to abandon them till I am on the spot; but my belief is, *that I must abandon them next February.*" Asked then if the island must not either go into the Gazette, or the Imperial Government pay its own charges? He answers, "If it chooses to keep the colony it must pay, but that it may reduce its expenditure very much there is no doubt at all." Asked to what extent he thinks the expenditure may be reduced? He answers, "It is impossible to say to what extent the expenditure may be reduced; if you are determined to cut your coat according to your cloth, there is hardly a limit. I DO NOT KNOW THAT THE COLONY WOULD BE WORSE ADMINISTERED AT HALF THE COST; but the fault of all our colonies, as far as we know, is, that every colony is a miniature of the Imperial Government; we must have a Treasury, and we must have an Audit-office, and all those are highly paid."

The present administration of Ceylon is very insufficient.

He is asked, this question: Therefore if the country were, instead of letting the colony go to ruin, to reduce the duty on Coffee 2*d.* a lb., if it did lose 300,000*l.* by the reduction of duty on Coffee, it would have a right to credit itself with half the expenditure of the colony of Ceylon which it would save? He answers, "Certainly. If the coffee planters are ruined, the revenue must fall to very much less than it is now. I think the revenue must fall under 300,000*l.* a year; but by reducing the duty it will not by any means be all loss. Not only will there be the increased consumption in this country, where the duty is 200 per cent. on the Coffee used by the lower orders; it is 36*s.* a cwt. on Coffee, which was 32*s.*; but for every additional pound of Coffee that is used there may be half a pound of Sugar, which would pay a high duty."

Asked if the injury, by the abandonment of the cultivation of Coffee in Ceylon, would be limited to Ceylon, and whether if the Coffee Plantations go out of cultivation, the East India Company's territories would not lose their exportation of Rice, and lose the employment of something like 50,000 or 60,000 Coolies, who come over every year to cultivate the estates in Ceylon? He answers, "Not only that, but the East India Company would lose the advantage arising from the enormous influx of specie into their territories. The Coolies on my own estate are paid 18*s.* a month; they can save very well indeed about 10*s.* out of that, which they take home and spend in their own country, or pay in taxes to the East India Company. Most likely the whole of that would be lost to them."

The House will observe that 10*s.* a month upon 50,000 or 60,000 Coolies a year is something like 300,000*l.* or 350,000*l.* a year. "It is to be observed that Mr. Christian made out that Ceylon paid something like 300,000*l.* a year for Rice to India besides?" Mr. Anstruther answers "Yes." And to a further question whether the money paid for Rice, virtually in the shape of Coffee, does not come home as part of the remittances from India for paying her Annual Tribute of four millions sterling, including her Private Tribute to this country? He answers, "No doubt the greater part of the Ceylon silver goes into the Company's treasury in the end." Then he adds, "And there is another supply which the East India Company's territories furnish, as well as rice. Before the coffee estates made any progress in Ceylon, such a thing as the importation of one head of cattle was unknown; now many thousands are imported, and are to be seen upon the roads every day, in droves of 200 or 300; imported from India for employment on the estates: the whole of those, to the subjects of the East India Company, would equally be lost." Asked if, up to the last year, Ceylon had not presented a single instance of a British colony bearing her own expenses? He answers, "I believe a single instance." Asked if the natives as well as the Europeans would not be ruined, as far as the Coffee cultivation is concerned? He answers, "The natives are suffering most enormously at this moment; the export of Native Coffee, however, still exceeds the export of European Coffee." Asked if there is any other point upon which he desires to give any information? He answers, "In reference to the removal of protection, I would

Great advantage to India of the Coffee cultivation of Ceylon.

The native cultivators of Coffee are suffering severely from the present depreciation of the price of Coffee.

High price paid Government for land in Ceylon on the faith of protection.

observe that the Government under protection sold the land for 20*s.* an acre; in common honesty, if they withdraw the protection, they should give back that 20*s.*" "They originally sold their lands for 5*s.*; some of the land never would have sold for 5*s.* if there had been no protection. Prior to the rise in the price of Coffee, the Government not only gave the land for nothing, but they gave it free of all duties for a certain number of years, to encourage

people to accept it. When, however, Coffee was brought into cultivation, under the influence of protection, then a demand arose for the land, and it was sold at those prices; 20 or 30 years before people had been encouraged to accept it for nothing. *I could, or any man could have got a grant of 10,000 acres of it, and the thanks of the Government for accepting it, if he would only engage to cultivate it.*" He says, with reference to a question which is asked him, whether, if the Government were to reduce the duty on British Coffee to 2d. a pound, and to maintain the duty on Foreign Coffee where it is now, his position would be mended, and his estate become valuable? He answers, *If the Government do anything which can benefit the planters immediately, many may be saved; but if matters are not mended within less than 12 months, I am confident that at least two-thirds must abandon their estates.*" Asked if the non-cultivation of an estate for half a year is equivalent to an abandonment? He answers "Nearly." He is then asked, If a coffee estate remained unweeded for six months, would it recover afterwards? To which he answers:—

"It might be to a certain extent recovered, if it were only left unweeded for six months, by cutting down all the trees and allowing them to grow up again; but the ground would be so saturated with the seeds of the weeds, that it would probably cost 2l. an acre for ever afterwards additional to weed it. But if it were neglected for 12 months, nothing could save it; even for six months, however, it would be cheaper to fell new forest, and do it all over again, than to try to restore that estate, it would be so seriously injured even by an abandonment for six months. As I suppose it is not to be hoped that the Government will do anything in the way of protection, the only other thing they can do is to remove this duty on rice; and if they will give us some reduction of the duty here, and either from the finances of this country, or in any other way they please, give us some roads, it will assist us."

Protection necessary to
Coffee cultivation in
Ceylon.

Injurious effects of a
capitation tax.

Having said that the removal of the duty on rice, amounting to 7s. a year upon each Coolie, would only slightly assist them, and being then asked, if in point of fact, the reduction of the duty on British Coffee, and a greater preference over the Foreign Coffee is not the only thing which would set them up? He answers, "Nothing else can save us. I would also particularly mention a tax that I hear is about to be imposed, a capitation tax; the natives of India have a most insuperable objection to a tax of that sort. Formerly, in Ceylon, a capitation tax of 1s. 6d. a head was levied upon each native inhabitant. It was so disliked by the people on the continent of India, that they refused to come to Ceylon so long as it existed."

Asked if he refers to the Coolies? He says, "Yes; it was before coffee estates were known, but I happened to be stationed in a part of the island where the Malabars principally resort, and it is within my knowledge that this 1s. 6d. a head kept them out of the place; they assigned that as the reason why they would not come over to Ceylon. If a capitation tax should be levied now, I believe the whole of the labour will quit the country, if it is levied from the Malabars."

Comparison of the sala-
ries of the Dutch and
English Governors of
Ceylon.

This, he afterwards says, would give the final *coup* to the Planters, by depriving them of all their labour at once. He afterwards says that the expense of the British Government compared with the former Dutch Government, or, he believes, with any Government except the British Government, is enormous. The Dutch Governor had 400l. a year, with some perquisites. Lord Torrington has 7,000l. a year.

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TO THE
E I G H T R E P O R T S
FROM THE
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ON
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I N D E X.

[N.B.—In this Index, the *Figures* following *Rep. i, ii, iii, &c.* refer to the Paging of the Eight Reports respectively; the *Figures* following the Names of the Witnesses refer to the Questions of the Evidence; and *Rep. i. App., Rep. iii. App., &c.* to the Appendices to the several Reports.]

A.

ABANDONMENT OF ESTATES :

- I. *Ceylon.*
- II. *Mauritius.*
- III. *West Indies :*
 1. Generally.
 2. In particular Islands :
 - i. *Antigua.*
 - ii. *Barbados.*
 - iii. *Jamaica.*
 - iv. *Trinidad.*
 - v. *St. Vincent.*

I. *Ceylon :*

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II. *Mauritius :*

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III. *West Indies :*

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III. West Indies—continued.

2. In particular Islands :

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ii. Barbados :

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iii. Jamaica :

Probable effect of the estates in Jamaica being thrown up, *Price* 5124-5127. 5134 *et seq.*—Witness's firm are agents for 34 estates in Jamaica ; proceeds of these estates in 1847, *Morton* 6387-6392—Nine out of the 34 estates are in the course of abandonment if they cannot be let in a certain time after the present canes are taken off, *ib.* 6399-6403—Out of the whole number witness apprehends that not more than 10 or 12 can be successfully carried on, *ib.* 6404-6408.

Causes of the abandonment of a large number of coffee plantations in Jamaica since emancipation, *Geddes* 8984 *et seq.*—The great cause is the low price now obtained here, owing to the introduction of slave and Ceylon coffee, *ib.* 8984, 8985—It is witness's solemn and deliberate conviction that if some remedial measure be not immediately applied, cultivation will entirely disappear from Jamaica, *ib.* 9079, 9080.

iv. Trinidad :

The continuance of the present state of things must lead to the abandonment of the cultivation of the estates, *Marryat* 10458-10472. 10516-10521.

v. St. Vincent :

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Abolition of Slavery. Proposed heads of an Act for the extinction of slavery throughout the British dominions, *Rep.* iv. App. 159.

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ABSENTEEISM :

I. Opinions that Absenteeism is the principal Cause of the Distress of the West Indies :

1. Generally.
2. Antigua.
3. St. Kitt's.

II. Opinions that no Evil arises from Absenteeism, but rather the contrary :

1. Generally.
2. Jamaica.
3. St. Kitt's.
4. St. Vincent.

I. Opinions that Absenteeism is the principal Cause of the Distress of the West Indies :

1. Generally :

The principal evil with which the West Indians have had to contend has been that of absenteeism, the total withdrawal of nearly the whole proprietary body, *Pickwood* 13713.

2. Antigua :

Reports, 1847-48—continued.

ABSENTEEISM—continued.**I. Opinions that Absenteeism is the principal Cause of the Distress**—continued.**2. Antigua :**

If proprietors were to reside on their estates, it would be attended with considerable advantage, *Tollemache* 8076.

3. St. Kitt's :

In the island of St. Kitt's absenteeism prevails to a most fearful extent, *Pickwood* 13714—Seven-eighths of the estates are managed by the agents of absentees; there are not more than 15 resident proprietors in the management and possession of their own properties, *ib.* 13714-13718—Chief evils arising from absenteeism, *ib.* 13719 *et seq.*—It acts by lowering the tone of society in general, and therefore has a most pernicious effect upon the land in that way, *ib.* 13719—The great evil of absenteeism arises from the necessity of employing attorneyships; nature of the various evils which arise from this necessity, *ib.* 13719-13734—Difficulty of delegating such instructions to a mere agent, as would enable him to act wisely under all the peculiar circumstances to which West India property is exposed, *ib.* 13726-13732—From this circumstance there is no property so soon ruined as West India property, *ib.* 13729—Evidence in detail, showing how far the estates of resident proprietors in St. Kitt's have been more remunerative than those of non-resident proprietors; they have not only survived every crisis, but, generally speaking, their condition has been decidedly improving since 1830, *ib.* 13735-13760. 13958-13966. 14007-14029. 14038-14065.

II. Opinions that no Evil arises from Absenteeism, but rather the contrary :**1. Generally :**

Witness is not in favour of planters going out and managing their own estates; every thing depends on having a good agent, *Price* 5073-5085—The planters living in Great Britain are much more prone to improve their estates and their processes of making sugar than the residents, *Moody* 5457-5459—Witness's experience leads him to believe that the absentee proprietors have been more successful than the resident proprietors; still the occasional presence of the proprietor himself is advantageous, *Hanky* 6902, 6903—Reasons for forming the opinion that absenteeism is not one of the causes which can be brought forward for the distress of the West Indies, *Barkly* 10845—In all cases where sugar cultivation has been extended, it has been by the capital of absentees, *ib.*

2. Jamaica :

No great disadvantage arises to the island from absenteeism, *Lord Howard de Walden* 4506.

3. St. Kitt's :

The resident proprietors in St. Kitt's do not manage their estates with the same energy, or so well as the absentees do by their agents, *Greene* 6194-6197—Evidence showing the erroneous view taken by Mr. Edwin Pickwood when he states that the great evil with which the island of St. Kitt's has to contend is that of absenteeism, *ib.* 16617-16631. 16637—The result of witness's calculation is that the estates of the non-resident proprietors, in proportion to their size, produce nearly double as much as those of the resident proprietors, *ib.* 16617-16625—List of estates owned and hired by residents in the island of St. Kitt's in 1847, showing the names of the proprietors, the names of the estates, the quantity of cane land, the nature of the land, and the average produce for the last five years, *Greene's Ev. Rep.* vii. p. 121—Similar list of estates cultivated by agents, on account of absentee proprietors, *ib.* 122, 123—Estates put out of cane cultivation by resident proprietors since 1837, *ib.* 124—Property of resident proprietors when last cultivated in cane, *ib.*—Property of absentees long since uncultivated, *ib.*—Property of absentees only lately put out of cultivation, *ib.*—Summary of the ownership of estates in the island of St. Kitt's, distinguishing the estates of residents and absentees and those out of sugar cultivation, *ib.* 125—The foregoing shows that the residents hold nearly half the estates, with more than two-fifths of the cane land, producing four-fifteenths of the sugar made in the island; the absentees hold rather more than half the estates, with less than three-fifths of the cane land, but making eleven-fifteenths of the entire produce, *ib.*—Witness entirely denies the statement made by Mr. Pickwood, that the resident proprietors go further than others in the use of implements, *Greene* 16638-16642.

4. St. Vincent :

As regards the cultivation of the estates, no advantage is derived from the planters being resident, but rather the contrary, *Wolley* 11422-11425. 11491-11496. 11506-11510.—See also *Resident Proprietors*.

Act of Parliament of 1846. See Monetary Crisis, Prices, II. Slave Labour Sugar. Slave Trade, V.A.

Ad Valorem Duties. Evidence showing, that in the case of ad valorem duties, parties are very much at the mercy or caprice of the custom-house officers, *Hardman* 844-861—Instance of this in the case of sugar imported in the ship "Alfred," of different duties being charged at different ports on the same identical parcel of sugar, *ib.*—The present classification duties are a protection to the planters, but not a sufficient protection, *Blyth* 3315-3325—Opinion in favour of an ad valorem duty on sugar, *Greene* 6322-6336—There would be great practical difficulties in the way of putting an ad valorem duty on sugar, *Woodhouse* 12213—Difficulty of making a distinction between clayed sugar and sugar not clayed, *ib.* 12220, 12221—Scales showing the operation of ad valorem duties on sugar, *Rep.* viii. *App.* 58. 69.

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Advances. Interest paid on advances to the cultivators of sugar in India, *Alexander* 1986—In many instances in the Mauritius money has been borrowed upon the working of the estates; the cultivation could not have been carried on without these advances, *Hunter* 2599-2604—Extent to which witness's house made advances on the cultivation of the soil in the Mauritius; they have declined making further advances, *Blyth* 3084. 3088-3091—The discredit into which the planters of the Mauritius are now thrown by the Act of 1846, makes it impossible for them to obtain advances to carry on their cultivation, *Guthrie* 4057-4059—Witness's connexion with the Mauritius has been to make advances upon the sugar, and not upon the estates; manner in which these advances are made, *ib.* 4130-4146—Some alteration in the system under which advances are made by merchants to the planters, to carry on the cultivation, would lead to improvement in the colonies, *Lord Howard de Walden* 4658-4661—In consequence of the fall in the price of West India sugar, the West Indies themselves have fallen into such discredit that the greatest difficulty has been found in raising money to pay the wages and carry on the business of the estates, *Colville* 5770-5773—The distressed condition of the West Indies has checked further advances for the cultivation of the estates, *Hankey* 6904, 6905.—See also *Capital.*

AFRICAN IMMIGRANTS :

1. *Value of the Africans as Immigrants to the West Indies.*
2. *Practicability of obtaining them.*
3. *How far allowing their Importation would be likely to lead to a Revival of the Slave Trade.*
4. *Objections to the Africans as Immigrants.*
5. *Steps taken by the Colonial Office with respect to African Immigration.*

1. *Value of the Africans as Immigrants to the West Indies :*

Some of the labourers that were imported into Jamaica from the coast of Africa worked remarkably well; but none of the imported labourers, except those, have done the planters any good, *Price* 5009—Witness's expectation is, that a very large number of those immigrants would find themselves much better off in the West Indies than they are in Africa, and would remain there, *Colville* 5897-5901—The African race in Africa are remarkably well disposed and docile; they are generally indolent, with the exception of the people in the northern parts of the Bight of Benin, *Matson* 7155, 7156—It would be a great blessing to Africa if the free immigration of Africans to the West Indies could in any way be promoted, *ib.* 7166, 7167—African labour would answer in the West Indies, but there is no reason why Chinese should not be obtained as well, *Shaw* 11804-11807—The Africans are a more valuable class of labourers than the coolies, *Miles* 13546.

2. *Practicability of obtaining them :*

How far it would be practicable to obtain by treaty free labourers from the Portuguese coast of Africa, *Lord Palmerston* 22—There is a sufficient supply of free labour to be had from the coast of Africa, *Price* 5025-5027—The best place for the supply of labour would be the coast of Africa, *Moody* 5729-5734—Means by which men might be got from the coast of Africa, *Loxdale* 9687-9694—If the Africans were willing to leave their country there is no doubt a great number of emigrants might be obtained, *McCrae* 13286, 13281—The result of witness's observation is, that there is nothing like an adequate supply of Africans for the wants of our British colonies, to be obtained either from the Kruo coast, the Fish coast, or Sierra Leone, but in the present state of the country it would not be practicable to obtain labourers from other parts of Africa, *ib.* 13326-13338.

3. *How far allowing their Importation would be likely to lead to a Revival of the Slave Trade :*

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AFRICAN IMMIGRANTS—continued.

3. *How far likely to lead to a Revival of the Slave Trade*—continued.

the slavers, *Matson* 7114-7122. 7228-7249. 7253, 7254—Abuses which would be likely to take place if this practice were allowed, *ib.* 7122-7130. 7228-7249—It would be felony for British subjects to purchase slaves on the coast of Africa to be transported thence to the West Indies as labourers, *ib.* 7197.

Any objection made to the permission to go to the coast of Africa for free labourers, on the ground that it might turn to slave trading, could be easily obviated by the presence of a government officer, *Geddes* 8975, 8976—There is not the slightest danger, in the present state of education and of feeling in our colonies, that a free access to the coast of Africa would lead to anything like slave dealing or slave trading on the part of the planters, *Barkly* 10966, 10967—Witness is not of opinion that we should go to Africa to buy slaves there to make them free afterwards, *Shaw* 11648—Doubt as to the practicability of getting large quantities of Africans without purchase, *ib.* 11807.

4. *Objections to the Africans as Immigrants:*

Witness would be sorry to see Africans introduced into Antigua till they know more about them, *Tollemache* 7868-7870.

5. *Steps taken by the Colonial Office with respect to African Immigration:*

Witness is sorry to hear that the Colonial Office has abandoned the plan of importing Africans into Jamaica, *Price* 5233—Particulars relative to the application of a sum of 200,000*l.* advanced by the mother country to Guiana and Trinidad for the encouragement of African immigration, 160,000*l.* of which was already forestalled, *Hawes* 16466-16479—Copies of the charter-parties or other instruments under which the colonial governments had contracted with certain merchants, shipowners, for the conveyance of Africans to the British West Indies, together with any rules and regulations framed in the Colonial Office in relation to such immigration and such conveyance, *Rep.* vii. *App.* 349

See also *Antigua*, 1. *Female Immigrants.* *Fishmen.* *Free Labour*, 4.
Immigration, II, 1. *Liberated Africans.*

Agents. See *Absenteeism*, I. 3; II. 1. 3.

Agricultural Association (St. Kitt's). Practice which existed in the island, when sugar was at high prices, for the managers to endeavour to obtain each other's labourers by out-bidding each other in the rate of wages, *Pickwood* 13811-13820. 14071-14075—This gave rise to the formation of the agricultural association, the object of which was, to put a stop to this practice, *ib.* 13811, 13812.

Agricultural Implements (West India Colonies):

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Antigua.—Witness has already sent out all the agricultural implements to his estate that they can possibly want, *Tollemache* 7871—Evidence as to the use of agricultural implements in Antigua, *ib.* 8033-8036.

Grenada.—The cost of sugar has not been materially decreased by the introduction of implements; reasons for this, *Hankey* 7049-7051.

Jamaica.—Witness went out to Jamaica to superintend some estates in Jamaica, purchased by a company in this country, *Dickon* 6428 *et seq.*—Particulars in detail relative to those estates, *ib.*—The intention was, that he should carry out with him all the agricultural improvements known in this country, *ib.* 6440—Insufficiency of the cattle on the estates to work the implements taken out; further outlay which the efficient use of them would have involved, *ib.* 6486-6495. 6557-6563.

Evidence in detail as to the mode in which the cultivation of the estate belonging to the company was carried on after witness arrived in Jamaica; there were no means of carrying out the intended improvements, *Dickon* 6626-6711. 6757-6760—With sufficient labour the estate was very capable of being improved, *ib.* 6714-6721—Data of witness's calculation as to the cost at which the estates might be cultivated profitably at present prices, with a sufficiency of labour, *ib.* 6722-6746—It would be desirable if by the introduction of implements the number of labourers required could be reduced, *ib.* 6784, 6785.

St. Kitt's.—The improvement and economy which have been effected in the cultivation of the island of St. Kitt's by the introduction of implements within the last three or four years have been very great indeed; but the present prices of sugar would not justify any further outlay, *Pickwood* 13760-13766—Great economy of labour which has taken place from the introduction of implements; how far this economy is likely to be still further carried out, *ib.* 13847-13853.—See also *Machinery* *Ploughs.*

Alexander, Nathaniel. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—East India merchant, 1803—Has been engaged in the sugar business in Bengal as a merchant for many years; has been connected with India 30 years; was in the country for 23 years, 1804, 1805—Previously to 1846 the sugar trade was a profitable trade for India, 1806—Particulars relative to two parcels of sugar witness has on hand; showing that the trade has not been profitable latterly, 1806 *et seq.*—Evidence showing that it is not the high price at Calcutta, but the fall in the price here, that has made it unprofitable; particulars as to the price at Calcutta; the rate of freight, &c.; price at which it ought to be bought at Calcutta in order, with the present prices here, to pay the importer, 1806-1818—Opinion that it is not likely to be obtained at that price, on account of the internal demand arising in the west of India, 1818.

Unless the prices rise in this country above what they now are, the exportation of sugar from India will be very much diminished, 1818, 1819—The merchants will be precluded from using sugar as a means of remittance to a great extent, 1818—Extracts from a memorandum drawn up by witness on this subject; showing his views of the present means of remittance, and what the merchants will be obliged to resort to, if they carry on the trade, 1819 *et seq.*—Statement of the trade of India generally since the charter was renewed in 1813, showing the value of India as a trading country connected with England, 1819, 1820. 1843. 1866-1868.

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Witness's suggestion is a 10*s.* protection for the next two years, 10846-10870. 10980-10999—This would enable the planters to go on with the cultivation of the canes now on the ground, but would not lead to any increase in the extent of cane cultivation, 10849-10870. 10980-10999—During this period the wages of labour might be reduced, and most probably such reduction would then be permanent, 10849-10874. 10980-10999—Witness's reliance for a reduction of wages is upon the expectation that the planters will be allowed to import immigrants, and then if the planters and the Government act firmly, the negroes will come round, 10875-10877.

• Other remedies which the West Indians are desirous of introducing, 10877—These remedies were brought prominently under the attention of the Government in November 1847, but they have not yet been met by any attention in a practical form, *ib.*—One of these was the equalization of the duties on rum and home-made spirits, 10877. 11024-11030—Another remedy they asked was to be allowed to have the Act permitting the distillation of sugar amended, so as to render the drawback of duty sufficient, 10877—They also asked that the use of sugar along with grain should be permitted as well as separately; they are allowed to mix molasses and grain, but not sugar and grain, *ib.*—They also ask to be permitted to bring the produce of the colonies to market in any form they like, and to refine it in bond before entering it for home consumption; there cannot be any real objection to this, 10877-10886. 11031, 11032—These measures the West India Committee in 1847 considered were perfectly consistent with the free-trade policy recently

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Barkly, Henry, M. P. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

recently adopted in Parliament, and the West India planters are surprised they have not been given them in their distressed condition, 10877.

There are other remedies which have been suggested, such as an alteration in the discriminating duties, so as to levy a higher duty on the clayed sugars from Cuba, 10877. 10881-10886—How far there is any export duty on rum, 10887—The result of emancipation is the best proof that the measure was not well advised in its conditions, 10888—The apprenticeship was originally imposed for too short a period, *ib.*—It would have been wise if part of the compensation money had been reserved for the purpose of introducing labour into the colonies, *ib.*—This would have supplied the deficiency, which was quite sure to occur, 10888, 10889.

The result of emancipation has been, till immigration began to tell, that the relative position of master and slave has been reversed, 10890—The immigration had produced a good effect up to the passing of the Act of 1846; evil effects which have accrued to the colonies from the passing of this Act, 10890-10899—The right of getting immigrants from any country ought to be allowed to the planters, 10900—But it would not be wise in them under existing circumstances to attempt to get immigrants from any country but the coast of Africa, 10900-10906—Engagement under which witness proposes the immigrants should be imported, 10907-10909.

Amount of the creole population of British Guiana, 10910—Number of immigrants introduced into the colony of British Guiana since the commencement of immigration; number employed in the cultivation and manufacture of sugar, 10911-10914—Attempt made to introduce Chinese into British Guiana; the regulations of the Colonial Office amounted to a prohibition on importing them, 10914, 10915—The great impediment to immigration has been the Order in Council of September 1838, which was passed simultaneously with the declaration of perfect freedom, 10916.

Evidence as to the general state of the productive industry of the emancipated peasantry, showing that they are retrograding, 10917-10924—To a great degree the negroes have ceased to reside upon the estates, 10925, 10926—There would be great difficulty in levying any direct tax on the negroes, which would induce them to remain on the estates; a house-tax or hearth-tax would perhaps be the best, if any tax were to be revived with this view, 10927-10929.

Attempt witness has made to introduce the metairie system on his Highbury estate; result of the experiment, 10930—How far any distinction should be made between contracts with the native population and with the immigrants; difficulty of getting the natives to enter into contracts, 10931—The stipendiary magistrates might be dispensed with except in the towns, 10932-10934—Progress of colonial taxation in British Guiana, with evidence to show that the taxation of the colony amounts to 5 s. a cwt. on the sugar produced, 10935-10963.

So far as immigration has already gone, the planters in British Guiana have always been desirous to obtain as large a proportion of females as males, 10964, 10965, 10968—There is not the slightest danger, in the present state of education and of feeling in our colonies, that a free access to the coast of Africa would lead to anything like slave dealing or slave trading on the part of the planters, 10966, 10967—Estimated population of the Kroo coast, 10969, 10970—Particulars as to the direct taxation of the labouring population of British Guiana, 10971-10978—Indirect taxation, 10979—The chief point is to supply our colonies with sufficient labour to enable the planters to reduce the cost of their production to such an extent as to compete with slave labour, 10995-10999, 11003.

Barbados is placed in such peculiar circumstances as regards population that the distress there is not of the same nature as that of the other colonies, and might be more easily remedied, 11000-11002—Even if nothing be done for Barbados, she may still continue to produce a certain quantity of sugar in competition with slave-labour sugar, 11000—How far it has been good policy in this country to bring new colonies in competition with old ones, 11004-11009—The increase of the population has not been so great in the West Indies as might have been expected; principal causes of this, 11010—The natural increase of the creole population has not been sufficient to keep up the present amount of cultivation without resorting to immigration, 11011, 11012—Increase of prosperity among the labouring class in British Guiana of late years; but their moral character has deteriorated, 11013-11018.

There is nothing to complain of in the sale charges in this country when the sugar arrives here, 11019, 11020—A repeal of the Navigation Laws would be no material advantage to the West Indies, as the Cubans would also reap any benefit that might arise, 11021-11023—There is a small import duty on British spirits imported into the West Indies; there is also a very high duty on rum consumed in the colony of British Guiana, 11024-11030, 11065-11067—Estimated acreage of land under sugar cultivation in British Guiana, 11033, 11034—Estimated number of effective labourers in the colony, 11035—On most of the estates the cost of labour forms more than one-half of the cost of production, 11036-11038.

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Evidence in detail, showing the comforts enjoyed by, and the care taken of the labourers in British Guiana, 11039-11049—The price of provisions in Guiana varies; no corn is grown except a little Indian corn; bread is used, but it is made of imported flour, 11050-11056—Expenditure of the colony for ecclesiastical purposes, 11057-11059—The constitution of British Guiana is not suited to a British colony; causes which have deterred the Colonial Office from making a change therein, 11060.

Power over the Crown lands is exclusively exercised by the governor, 11061, 11062—The negroes have not now the same expensive habits they had when they were first emancipated, 11063, 11064—Further evidence as to the cost of the production of sugar in Cuba, 11068-11074—A railway has been projected in Demerara, and its construction, to a certain extent, proceeded with; but from the state of discredit into which the colony has been thrown, by the low price of sugar, the works are at a stand-still, 11075-11078—Witness, believing that there was a certain sum at the disposal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, which might have been applicable for this railway, waited upon him on the subject; unsuccessful result of his application, 11079, 11080.

Barracoons. Reference to the case of the destruction of the barracoons on the coast of Africa, by Captain Denman, *Lord Palmerston* 20—See also *Slave Trade*, 7.

Batavia. See *Freights*.

Beet-root Sugar. Comparative yield of sugar from a West Indian sugar-cane, and from the improved processes of obtaining sugar from the beet-root, showing the yield to be greatly in favour of the beet-root; way in which this may be accounted for, *Moody* 5437-5441. 5515-5518. 5529-5541. 5650-5657—Beet-root sugar has very much improved in its quality; still the French refiners do not prefer it to cane sugar, *ib.* 5529 *et seq.*—No protection at all is necessary against the importation of beet-root sugar to this country, *ib.* 5542. 5686-5688—The West India colonies, if placed in a position to enable them to use good machinery, have no occasion to fear the rivalry of beet-root sugar, *ib.* 5543-5545—Particulars as to the use of beet-root sugar in Germany, Holland, and Belgium, *ib.* 5658-5685.

Evidence relative to the large sugar factory in the Grand Duchy of Baden; there has been no improvement upon the manufacture of beet-root sugar beyond those made by this factory, *Crosley* 7710-7714—Evidence as to the relative cost of beet-root sugar and cane sugar, *ib.* 7747-7757—It is a nice question whether it would be for the advantage of the agricultural interest if the manufacture of beet-root sugar were allowed here, *ib.* 7781-7791—How far beet-root sugar comes into competition with our colonial sugars; reference to the statements made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mr. Wilson, in the House of Commons, on this subject, *Higgins* 9865-9872—Evidence as to the increase in the production of beet-root sugar on the Continent of Europe of late years, and as to how far it comes into competition with slave-grown sugar, *ib.* 10073-10094—As regards beet-root sugar coming into competition with sugar of our colonies, if the same duties be everywhere imposed upon beet-root sugar and cane sugar, and trade be free with respect to both, beet-root sugar has not a leg to stand on, *Crawford* 13151-13154—Estimated production of beet-root sugar in France, Belgium, German States, Austria, and Russia, during the years 1845, 1846, and 1847, *Innes's Ev.; Rep. v.* p. 225.

See also *Holland*.

Belgium. See *Beet-root Sugar*.

Benares Sugar. Lowest export price witness has ever known in India for Benares sugar, *Alexander* 1978-1984.

Bengal. Anticipated extent of the falling off in the export of sugar from Bengal to this country if the low prices continue, *Crooke* 161-165—Evils which would result from this falling off; quantity of land which would be thrown out of cultivation, and number of hands thrown out of employment, *ib.* 168-176—Statement of the quantity of sugar exported from Calcutta to Great Britain, &c., commencing 1835-36, ending 1846-47, *ib.* 220-224—Statement of the trade between Calcutta and Great Britain, 1834-35 to 1846-47, with a view to showing whether the export of British produce and manufactures to the East Indies has kept pace with the increased export of sugar from Bengal, *ib.* 225-231—Statement of the imports into Calcutta in the years 1834-35 and 1846-47, and of the exports from Calcutta to Great Britain for the same years, *ib.* 232.

Particulars as to the climate and soil of the different districts of Bengal; the native consumption of sugar; the exports of sugar from India; the qualities of the cane; the quantity of land under sugar cultivation, and the mode of manufacture, and the names and qualities of the different descriptions of sugar, *Wray* 338-340—Amount of sugar sent from Bengal between the years 1834-35 and 1841-42, showing an enormous increase during that period; small amount exported in 1834-35, *Sykes* 629, 630—Cost per cwt. of Bengal sugar at the exchange of 2 s. per Company's rupee, *Rep. i. App.* 284—The

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reason for the average sugar production of Bengal being so small compared with the extent of country which would produce sugar is, the high rent of the land and the large amount of assessment for revenue. *Crawford* 13030-13043. 13141-13150.

See also *Canes*. *Cultivation of Sugar*. *East Indies*.

Barbice. List of the estates and abandoned estates in the county of Barbice, the whole or parts of which have been purchased by agricultural labourers, and upon which villages or hamlets have been or are being established, together with a statement of the actual or computed population of each, and of the extent of the lands and numbers of plots purchased, and the respective tenures by which they are held; showing also the relative positions of the contiguous places of worship, *Rep. iv. App. 176, 177*.

See also *Crops*. *Highbury Estate*.

Best, John Rycroft. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—President of the Council of Barbados; is possessed of considerable plantations in the island, 11276-11281—The cost of production of sugar is much greater under free labour than it was under slave labour, 11282-11284—The population of Barbados is not nearly so enormous as is generally supposed; it is by no means so dense as it was; there is barely sufficient labour for the cultivation of the estates, 11285-11288—Number of the population engaged in sugar cultivation; annual produce of the island, 11289-11291—Wages paid to the labourers, 11292-11296—Minimum price at which sugar can be produced in Barbados, so as to be remunerative to the cultivator, 11297-11303. 11349. 11359-11370.

The position of the island of Barbados could not be amended by immigration, 11304, 11305—The taxation of the island of Barbados is very uncertain and irregular, 11306—The legislature put on taxes according to their wants, 11306—The expenses of the island have multiplied in various ways to a very great degree since emancipation; a reduction might be made in the colonial charges, especially as regards the stipendiary magistrates, 11307-11314—The expenditure on account of the police is large, but could not well be dispensed with, 11315-11324—The expenditure, as regards the ecclesiastical establishment is also very heavy, 11324-11331. 11350—The salary of the Governor is paid by England; amount of his salary, 11332, 11333—Difficulties in the way of introducing a contract system of labour into Barbados, 11334-11341—Barbados does not suffer much from the want of continuous labour, 11343-11348—Probable abandonment of estates in Jamaica if the present prices continue; evils which will result therefrom, *ib.*

Betts, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been extensively engaged in the spirit trade as a rectifier for nearly 20 years with his father and on his own account, 15207-15209—Has some information as to the manufacture of spirits, 15210—There are two distinct and separate branches of the trade; the distilling from grain, and, as regards the consumption in England, the rectifying of these spirits, 15211-15213—The rectifier has to buy his spirit either from the distiller in England, or from the agents of either the Scotch or Irish houses, 15214, 15215.

The importation of Scotch and Irish spirits into the London market is not so plentiful by any means as it used to be, 15216. 15256-15267—This short supply may be attributed to three distinct regulations and clauses in the Act of Parliament, that give privileges, particularly to the English, that are denied to the Irish and Scotch, 15217-15219. 15231. 15241, 15242. 15268—Nature of these respective clauses, 15218 *et seq.* 15269 *et seq.*—The first of these is that the English distiller is allowed over and above the Scotch to have worts on any part of his premises of any gravity, the Scotch being restricted to one vessel, 15218. 15269-15272—Secondly, there is no efficient check on the spirits sent out by the English distillers after the charge is made in the receivers, 15218—The third is, as to the payment of the duties; the English being allowed to send out their spirits as fast as they are made, and having a fortnight's credit upon the duties, *ib.*

Evidence relative to the payment of the duties in Ireland and Scotland, 15219. 15223-15230. 15253-15255—The Scotch and Irish distiller cannot send their spirits here and bond them in this market; this operates against their sending them, 15221, 15222—Great advantage would arise, particularly to the rectifier, if the privilege were given to the distillers of Ireland and Scotland to bond their spirits in this market, and to pay duty only when the spirits were required for use, 15232-15245. 15253-15255. 15273-15277—Witness's object would be to bring the Scotch and Irish spirits fairly into competition with those of the English distiller; this is not the case at the present time, 15246-15248.

How far the large distillers of London are connected either directly or indirectly with rectifying houses, 15249-15252—Number of gallons of spirits imported into England from Scotland and Ireland in the last year; quantity made in England, showing that one-third of the quantity consumed in England is imported from those countries; this is a small proportion compared to what it used to be, 15256-15268.

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Witness does not concur in the evidence that has been given before this Committee, that the rectifier experiences no loss in his process of manufacture through which he puts the spirit, to render it suitable to the English market, 15278—So far as he is himself concerned, he finds a loss of three and a half per cent., 15279—Way in which he calculates this loss, 15280-15292—Proportion of this loss he attributes to the Excise restrictions, 15285. 15289-15292—It would be a great advantage to the rectifiers of this country if they were allowed to rectify in bond, and there would be no difficulty in the way as regards the excise regulations, so as to affect the revenue, 15293-15299. 15310-15314—If this privilege were allowed there would be a very considerable trade with foreign ports, 15300-15309.

Betty's Hope Estate (Antigua). Statement of the average crops of 1844, 1845, and 1846 on the Betty's Hope Estate, island of Antigua, showing a net average loss of 2,569*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*; statement showing the loss or gain in each year; estimated return of the crop of 1847, *Sir W. Codrington* 8400-8427—In 1843 witness cut down the salaries and perquisites of the persons on his estate, but does not consider that he can carry out any further economy upon it, *ib.* 8438-8440. 8507-8510—The losses on the estate in 1844 and 1845 were very much owing to the earthquake in 1843, *ib.* 8503-8506. 8519-8525.

Blyth, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Partner in the firm of H. D. and James Blyth & Greene, merchants and shipowners in London, 3027, 3028—Belongs also to the firm of Blyth Brothers & Co., of Port Louis, Mauritius; resided in the Mauritius from 1830 to 1839; was a member of the Legislative Council for six years, 3029-3032—Witness's principal business at the Mauritius has been importing British manufactured goods from Great Britain, and grain from India, and exporting sugar from the Mauritius to England, 3033—Account of the amount of the exports from Great Britain to the Mauritius from the year 1840 to 1847; 3034—A large proportion of this trade has passed through the hands of witness's firm, 3035—The proceeds have been returned chiefly in produce, and the residue in bills on other mercantile houses, principally on those concerned in sugar plantations and other produce of the Mauritius, 3036.

On the passing of the Act of 1846, witness's firm, as Mauritius merchants, became much alarmed, and determined to contract their business with that island, 3037, 3038—It was their opinion that the Mauritius could not compete with slave-holding countries, 3039—The general result of this Act has been, as regards the commerce of the Mauritius, that the exports from Great Britain to the Mauritius were reduced from 345,059*l.* in 1845, and 310,231*l.* in 1846, to 203,247*l.* in 1847; 3040.

About the time of the passing of the Bill of 1846, witness sailed for the Brazils in order personally to investigate the power of the Brazils to compete with the Mauritius in the cheap cultivation of sugar, 3041-3043—Witness was the first to carry the news of the passing of the Bill to Rio Janeiro, 3044—Purchase made by witness of sugar at Rio; price paid for this sugar; the quality was above the average of Mauritius sugar by 2*s.* a cwt.; duty at which this sugar would be admitted into England; witness returned to the Mauritius, and then came to the conclusion that sugar could not be profitably exported from the Mauritius at a lower rate than 23*s.* free on board; which, with the freight and other charges, would be 31*s.* in bond, 3045-3060.

On witness's return to the Brazils the price of sugar had risen; the price had been stimulated by the free access of slave-grown sugar to the English market, 3061-3066—Difference in the rates of freight from Brazil and from the Mauritius, 3067-3070—Witness returned to England, and on consulting with his partners, they resolved that the Mauritius could not compete with Brazil under the Sugar Duties Bill of 1846; 3071-3073—And resolved immediately to reduce their capital invested in the Mauritius trade, 3074—They strenuously urged their correspondents to curtail their engagements, and also to curtail the credits which they had previously given to the colonists, 3075.

- Amount of credits and of the capital invested by witness's house in 1845; extent to which they have contracted them; reasons for their not entirely relinquishing their operations, 3076-3079—Witness's house and some other houses connected with the Mauritius have stood during the recent failures, from not having been much mixed up in the cultivation of the soil, 3080-3083—Extent to which witness's house made advances on the cultivation of the soil; they have declined making further advances, 3084. 3088-3091.

There was still a hope at the end of last year that Government would, at the meeting of Parliament, do something for the Mauritius, 3085—On the reassembling of Parliament on the 3d February the Government made a declaration of its policy with regard to the colonies, 3086—In consequence of this declaration, witness's firm wrote by the overland mail of 7 February, withdrawing their credits previously existing in Bengal, under which their correspondents sent rice and other grain to the Mauritius, on joint account with witness's house, 3087. 3427—They also stopped the advances to native merchants to send down rice, *ib.*—Probable effect of these instructions on the means of subsistence of the colonists; how far the Government or the East India Company have taken measures to supply the anticipated deficiency, 3092-3097. 3427.

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Blyth, James. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

Extract of a letter from witness's correspondents, recommending him to send out a powerful sugar-mill for the purpose of manufacturing sugar on an estate in which he is interested, 3008, 3099—Witness and his co-proprietors have declined acceding to this request; they decline incurring any further liability, and have also entered into a correspondence with respect to the sale of this property, 3100-3105. 3261-3268—They have not yet fixed the minimum price at which to sell this property, as they still hope after the evidence which is being taken before this Committee, something may be done for the colonies, 3106, 3206. 3261-3268—The price of British plantation sugar has fallen between January and December 1847 about 13 l. a ton, 3107-3109—The high prices ruling in January 1847 were owing to the excitement which existed at that time as to the probability of a large use of sugar in breweries and distilleries, 3107-3109. 3270—It would not therefore be fair to compute the whole fall of 13 l. a ton as ascribable to the Bill of 1846; 3108, 3109. 3267-3270—Extent to which the property in which witness is interested has been depreciated by this fall, 3110-3125. 3221-3270.

Witness is co-inspector with Mr. Baring and Mr. McChlery of the affairs of Messrs. Reid, Irving & Co., 3130—Evidence showing the loss sustained by them on their estates in the Mauritius, 3131-3146—Also statement of the losses of Messrs. Gower, Nephews & Co., on their sugar estates in the Mauritius, 3147-3151—Also of Messrs. Barclay, Brothers & Co., 3147-3152. 3163—Not only is the Mauritius very unfairly treated by having to compete against slave labour, but it is also not allowed to get even free labourers where they are to be obtained the cheapest, that is from Madagascar, 3164-3168. 3275-3285—They are a very superior class to the Bengalese, 3169-3176.

Impediments are also thrown in the way of getting labourers from Madras, 3170-3175—And Bombay is still closed, as is also the eastern coast of Africa, 3170-3173—Under a 10s. protective duty, with the free immigration of labourers, and a considerable diminution of the colonial expenditure, the colony might still be in a prosperous condition, 3177-3182. 3189. 3288 *et seq.* 3420-3423—Upon national grounds it would be proper to keep up something like the existing military and civil establishment, but the expense of them ought to be defrayed by the Home Government, 3178-3180. 3420-3423—No very great quantity of inferior land has been taken into cultivation in the expectation of remunerating prices being secured to the Mauritius under the system of protection, 3184-3188—Without protection it will not be possible for any set of proprietors to continue the cultivation of sugar in the Mauritius for exportation, 3190-3193—Witness would desire a protection of 10 l. a ton for a certain number of years, say five or seven years, 3194—During which period he would hope the Government would aid in the introduction of a sufficient number of labourers to reduce wages, and put the colony on a footing to compete with the cheap labour of slave countries, 3194-3204—A great extension of the cultivation of sugar has taken place in the Mauritius, 3203.

A great number of labourers has been imported from India, 3203—And a large amount of capital has been invested in promoting this cultivation, *ib.*—This having been carried on under the guarantee of Acts of Parliament, witness does not consider it by any means an artificial state of things, 3204-3207—High price of provisions in the Mauritius; the soil is not suited to the cultivation of grain, 3208-3211—Further evidence, showing the reason for witness's fixing upon 10s. per cwt. as a sufficient protective duty, 3212-3255—Increase of late years in the importation of French produce and manufactures into the Mauritius, 3256-3260—The extended culture in Porto Rico and Brazil, particularly in Cuba, and also the large crop exported in North America, will prevent the prices rising, 3271.

Reasons for forming the opinion that the falling off in the produce in the Mauritius in 1848 will not be very considerable, 3272, 3273—Further evidence as to the supply of labourers that might be obtained from Madagascar, 3275-3285—And also from the east coast of Africa, 3286, 3287—Large importation of labourers required to be of efficient service to the colony of the Mauritius, 3288-3297. 3304-3306—To cultivate successfully the planters in the Mauritius must use all their energy and enterprise, 3307-3310—The present classification duties are a protection to the planters and merchants of the Mauritius, but not a sufficient protection, 3315-3325—Having a uniform duty on sugars of all kinds, and allowing them to be refined in bond, and then introduced into consumption, would be a very desirable arrangement, 3326-3332. 3404-3413.

Further evidence to show that the great losses sustained by the houses connected with the Mauritius which have recently failed may be attributed to the Bill of 1846; 3334-3349—The chief impediment in the way of the cultivation in the Mauritius is the deficiency of labour, 3350-3356—Reason why coolies have been shipped from Madras to the West Indies, rather than to the Mauritius, 3357-3360—Government restrictions with respect to the shipping of coolies; increased expense incurred thereby in importing them into the colonies, 3361-3372.

Further expression of the opinion, that a guaranteed protection of 10s. per cwt. for seven years would lead parties to re-invest their capital, and that the trade of the colonies would

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would revive, 3373-3390—Opinion that the cost of labour is not likely to be reduced in the Mauritius under existing circumstances, 3390-3394—Improvements witness would suggest for the importation of free labour, and in the system of contracts between employer and servant, 3395-3403—Chinese labourers have been tried in the Mauritius with very indifferent results, 3417-3419.

Export of rum from the Mauritius; it is an increasing trade, but it is fettered by bad excise laws, 3424-3426—A great part of the estates in the Mauritius are mortgaged, 3428-3431—There being no funded debt or Exchequer bills, money or family settlements, and money in trust, &c., is frequently invested on mortgage, just as we here put money into the three per cents., 3428-3431—Usual charges of importation upon those goods that come from mortgaged estates to this country, 3432, 3433—Further evidence as to the high price of provisions in the Mauritius, 3434, 3435—The great amount of vagabondage is a great grievance in the Mauritius, 3436-3440—Very little more capital will be sent to the Mauritius unless some such measures as witness has indicated be passed 3441.

Blyth, Mr. Letter from James Blyth to Lord George Bentinck, relative to the amount of the remittances to England on account of the East India Company, *Rep.* viii. *App.* 3.

Blockade. See *Slave Trade*, V. VII.

Bogga Cane. See *Canes.*

Bonding Spirits. Evidence as to the difference of opinion amongst distillers as to the bonding of British spirits, *Currie* 8728-8730. 8778—The mere permission to bond would not put the English distiller in the same position as the colonial distiller, *ib.* 8763-8765. 8776-8778—Unless he had also the privilege of paying the duty only on that quantity of spirit which goes into consumption after it had passed the hands of the rectifier, *ib.* 8764—Anything of this kind would be extremely hazardous to the revenue, *ib.* 8766-8778—Opinion that allowing the bonding of spirits and paying duty for what goes into consumption would not lead to fraud or be detrimental to the revenue, *Gray* 9413-9420.

There is the greatest objection to distilling in bond and allowing spirits to be retained in bond, even if it were made compulsory on all distillers throughout the kingdom, *Wood* 14984, 14993-15036—Regulations under which spirits are allowed to be placed in bond in Scotland and Ireland at the present time, *ib.* 14985, 14986—There is no objection to these regulations obtaining also in England, *ib.* 14987—The Scotch and Irish distillers cannot send their spirits here and bond them in this market; this operates against their sending them to this country, *Betts* 15221, 15222.

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2. Cultivation of Sugar.

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2. To Ceylon.
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1. *Suggestions as to allowing Cane Juice to be imported into this Country to be manufactured or refined here.*

2. *Objections to this Proposition.*

1. *Suggestions as to allowing Cane Juice to be imported into this Country to be manufactured or refined here:*

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Evidence in detail, showing the result of witness's experiments in regard to the pneumatic process of testing sugar, *Crosley* 16016-16023—This test could be easily established in the different custom-house offices in the kingdom; the apparatus might be erected and worked at a moderate cost, *ib.* 16024-16028—The different custom-house officers, after they had tried the operation for some little time, would easily arrive at an accurate calculation of the exact quantity of saccharine matter contained, *ib.* 16029, 16030—The operation would not take any great length of time, *ib.* 16031-16033—Table which witness has prepared with regard to the amount of duty which should be charged on the different products, *ib.* 16034-16043. 16050-16052—The revenue would be benefited by the duties proposed to be charged under this table, *ib.* 16044. 16051, 16052. 16113-16116—Under the duties as charged at present, the revenue loses considerably, to the disadvantage of the colonial producer, *ib.* 16045-16047.

Period it would take to get the apparatus proposed by witness into operation in the different ports, *Crosley* 16053-16055—How far this plan would be liable to be open to fraud, *ib.* 16056-16067—It would not be practicable to make anything like an accurate test as regards cane-juice and concrete by this process, *ib.* 16068-16074—Witness delivers in papers relative to his proposed plan, and on other subjects connected with the cultivation and manufacture of sugar; reference to the heads of these various papers, *ib.* 16075, 16076—Further explanation relative to the table prepared by witness with regard to the amount of duty which should be charged on the different products, *ib.* 16083-16091—The result of the imposition of such a scale of duties as witness proposes, would be to induce the producer of sugar to make a finer quality, *ib.* 16095-16097.

The plan proposed by witness would not introduce the element of uncertainty with regard to the importer as to the amount of duty which he would have to pay upon his sugar on its arriving in this country, but quite the reverse, *Crosley* 16098-16112—Upon the differential value of the sugar, the average samples of Cuban and Brazilian, one paying very little more duty, or not so much, at 20s. as other sugars pay at 14s., *ib.* 16117-16124—Report of Henry Crosley as to the result of testing sugars of various descriptions, for the purpose of ascertaining their intrinsic qualities, or the quantity of pure saccharine matter thereof, and charging proportionate duties thereon when imported for home consumption, *Rep. vii. App. 391*—Extracts from Henry Crosley's pamphlet, published July 1830, and presented to the Right honourable the Lords of the Treasury, *ib.* 394—Statement of results of H. Crosley's testing, with pneumatic apparatus, various qualities of sugar, *ib.* 398—Table of differential duties proposed to be charged on sugar of various growths and qualities according to statement of tests made by Henry Crosley, *ib.* 399—The said duties not comprising any additional or protective duty upon foreign sugars of slave production, *ib.*

Further papers furnished by Mr. Crosley, *Rep. viii. App. 20*—Schedule of Acts of Parliament regulating the duties upon the importation of sugar and drawbacks of bounty upon the exportation of refined sugar, *ib.*—Scale showing the operation of *ad valorem* duties on sugar, *ib.* 58. 69.

See also *Ad-valorem Duties.* *Differential Duties.* *Duties.* *Protective Duty.*
Refining Sugar.

Clayed Sugars. Quantity of sugar imported in 1847 from the East Indies, the West Indies, and the Mauritius, which paid the rate of duty of white clayed, *Dowling* 3012—The greater part of the Havannah sugars are clayed; it is the want of continuous labour that prevents the West Indies from claying their sugars and putting them on an equality with the Havannah sugars, *Greene* 6165-6168. 6185, 6186—Detail of the results of experiments made by witness, showing that it takes 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. of British plantation sugar to equal 1 cwt. of Brazil or Cuba sugar clayed, *Crosley* 7689-7706—It must depend upon the prices here whether the clayed sugars from Brazil could compete with sugars from Demerara, *ib.* 7762-7766—There is no doubt that planters have been injured by the restrictions against claying sugars, *Higgins* 9967—Probable advantage of an alteration in the discriminating duties, so as to levy a higher duty on the clayed sugars from Cuba, *Barkly* 10877. 10881-10886.

See also *Ad-valorem Duties.* *Classification Duties.*

Clergy (Jamaica). A good deal might have been done in former times for the negro population had an efficient clergy been established in the island; the clergy of the Church of England established of late years in the island are acquiring daily more influence over the negroes, *Lord Howard de Walden* 4502—There are other church or religious influences which have a contrary tendency, *ib.*—The influence of the Wesleyans has been good, but that of the Baptists has been exceedingly mischievous in encouraging insubordination in the island, *ib.* 4502-4504—The payments in the island for the maintenance of the Church are very considerable, *ib.* 4505.

Cliffe, Senor José Stephen, M.D. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Born in the United States, is now a Brazilian citizen; was a staff surgeon in the Brazilian navy, 1404-1406—Holds extensive mines in Brazil, 1407—Cultivates the sugar-cane, but merely for domestic purposes, 1408, 1409—Witness employs rather than more than 100 slaves; and has seen a great deal of the slave trade, 1410-1412—Estimate of the number of slaves that have been imported into Brazil in 1847; 1413, 1414. 1438, 1439—A great number die after landing and before sale, from the extreme ill-treatment, and from the putrid gases in the holds of the small vessels, arising from the close manner in which they are packed, 1415—Some of them drink a great deal of water if they can get it, and they mostly die in three or four hours, *ib.*—Largest mortality witness has ever known occur, 1416-1418.

The greatest evil to which the slaves are subject is the scarcity of water in the present run of slavers, 1418-1421—The stint of water arises from the activity of the British cruisers, who would seize any vessel if she were loaded with a certain number of water casks, 1422, 1423—Description of the mode in which the slaves are packed in the holds of the slave vessels; filthy state in which they are kept; height between the decks, 1424-1429. 1435-1437. 1457-1459—Average voyage from the coast of Africa to Brazil, 1430, 1431.

The effect of the want of water is too horrible to describe; no person can have an idea of it without feeling it, 1431—There is nothing in the Tropics that can be cultivated by free labour; they can neither mine nor do anything else with free labour, 1433—Those who import slaves prefer importing boys and girls, as they pack closer, 1434—The slavers are very subject, on leaving the coast of Africa, to be caught in a calm; it is then the suffering of the negro commences, 1440, 1441—Witness has known one slaver land 1,750 slaves; this vessel has already made three voyages, and was ready to start again last year when witness left Brazil; she is a very fine craft, 1442-1444.

There is no doubt that the "Antelope" steamer built at Liverpool, and sent over to Rio as a packet ship, will be sold for the slave trade, 1445-1451—Proportion of slaves that would be landed in a condition to stand upright, after a quick and fortunate voyage, previous to 1830; 1452-1453—Before 1830 the proportion of loss was smaller than at present, except in cases where smallpox got on board, 1454—Wretched condition in which the slaves are landed at the present time, 1455-1459—So far as they have the means, the Brazilians universally engage in slave speculations, 1460, 1461—History of the progress of the slave trade since 1830; 1462 *et seq.*—Evidence as to the increase and decrease in the trade at different times; price of slaves at various periods; age at which the slaves are purchased, &c. 1462-1475. 1480-1492. 1607-1610.

On account of the British cruisers off the coast of Brazil the slave trade was at the lowest pitch in 1844; 1474, 1475. 1560-1566—It was then discovered that the British cruisers were not so effectual as the dealers supposed them to be, and they were also taken off the coast of Brazil, and sent to Sierra Leone, 1475. 1560-1566—The slave trade, after this, was carried on much more extensively, 1476. 1560-1566—Great difficulties in the way of carrying out the blockade of the coast of Brazil, 1477-1479. 1562.

Witness is at present engaged in mines, 1493—Whether the working in mines is more severe than the working in sugar plantations depends on the owner; 1494. 1532-1534—Slavery is not so severe in Brazil as it was in the West Indies, 1495—Particulars as to the hours of labour in the Brazils; work performed by the slaves in the gold mines, and in searching for diamonds; mode in which performed, 1495-1506. 1532-1534—Evidence showing that, generally speaking, the slaves are well treated; it is to the interest of the owners to treat them well; general good behaviour and happy condition of the slaves, 1495. 1507-1510—Those from the immediate neighbourhood of Sierra Leone have given the English government a great deal of trouble, 1510.

How far slaves are procured from the Kroo coast, 1511-1514—Cruelty would be lessened by the British Government legalizing the slave trade, 1515—A trade in gold mines, and other advantages, might be got by legalizing the slave trade, and then sending the slaves back, after they have been eight or ten years in the Brazils, before they have forgotten their African habits; *ib.*—They would then form valuable communities, *ib.*—Great extent to which sugar plantations have risen in Brazil since the British Government has crushed the West India islands, 1516-1519. 1527-1592.

Great increase in the slave trade in the last few years; how far this may be attributed to the increase of sugar cultivation, 1520-1523—The change in the duties has increased

Reports, 1847-48—continued.

Cliffe, Senor José Stephen, M.D. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

increased the cultivation of sugar in Brazil, 1524-1526—Penal laws exist in the Brazils against the slave trade, 1528—Further evidence as to the price of slaves; difficulty of stating the actual price at the present time, 1529-1531—The mortality among the slaves in the Brazils was formerly not so great as in the West Indies, 1537, 1538—They do not now come in so healthy a condition, owing to the British cruisers being on the coast; way in which this arises, *ib.*—There is no trade so profitable under the sun at the present time as the African slave trade, 1539—Reasons why, if the trade were thrown open, and our cruisers withdrawn, it would not be so profitable, 1540-1550.

Evidence as to the employment of slaves by English companies; there is one company that buys them; they have not bought them since the passing of the 2 & 3 Vict. 1551-1559—The fall in the price of slaves has led to an extended sugar cultivation, 1567—The Brazilian government wink at the slave trade altogether; public opinion there is favourable to it; it is not thought dishonourable to be connected with it, 1568-1574—Further evidence to show that more humanity was observed in the slavers previous to the endeavours of the British Government to blockade the coast of Brazil than is now shown, 1575-1578. 1593, 1594—Steamers have been engaged in the trade off and on for some years, 1579.

The increased demand for sugar has increased the demand for slaves, 1580-1583—Witness does not consider there would be any advantage in sending the men from the Kroo coast to the West Indies; he would not like to have anything to do with them, 1584-1591—Formerly the value of the slaves depended on the part of the coast from which they came; this is not the case now, 1595-1598—Proportion of female slaves to men in the sugar plantations in the Brazils, 1599-1603—No system of cruising, either on the west coast of Africa, or on the coast of Brazil, will put down the slave trade, 1606.

Climate. See Cuba, 2. Demerara. European Immigrants. Soil.

Cocoa (Trinidad). Average import of cocoa into Great Britain from Trinidad, showing an enormous increase between 1831-33 and 1844-46, owing to the immigration, *Marryatt*, 10324. 10326, 10327.

Codrington, Sir William, Bart. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Proprietor in Antigua; came into possession in 1843; succeeded his father, 8392-8394—Former income derived from this estate; many years 30,000 *l.* and 35,000 *l.* a year was received, but this was more than an average, 8395—Witness's father has received as much as 20,000 *l.* a year since emancipation; there was no apprenticeship, the people were emancipated, 8396-8399—Statement of the average crops of 1844, 1845, and 1846 on the Betty's Hope estate, island of Antigua, showing a net average loss of 2,569 *l.* 7 *s.* 3 *d.*; statement showing the loss or gain in each year; estimated return of the crop of 1847; 8400-8427—The wages in Antigua are at present reduced to 6 *d.* a day, but it is very doubtful whether this will last; they were reduced in consequence of a bad season, and it is most probable when crop-time arrives they will be raised again, 8428, 8429. 8474-8476.

The labourers on sugar plantations in the West Indies are practically the masters of the planters, 8430-8437. 8513-8516—In 1843 witness cut down the salaries and perquisites of the persons on his estate, but does not consider that he can carry out any further economy upon it, 8438-8440. 8507-8510—Reasons why witness differs from the opinion expressed by Mr. Tollemache that by economy of labour the cost of cultivation might be reduced 2 *s.* a cwt., 8441-8447—Witness has introduced machinery and agricultural implements to a great extent on his estate, and by this means has reduced labour in a great measure, 8445, 8446.

It is only the splendid crop of 1847 which has enabled the planters to work for anything like a return at the present low prices, 8448-8450. 8473—If prices remain as they are witness fears he must abandon his Antigua estate, or at any rate he will not invest any further capital upon it, which he was about to do if he had not been stopped by the Bill of 1846; 8451, 8452—No immigration of labour would enable the planters of Antigua, without protection, to compete with slave-grown sugar, 8453-8457.

An attempt has been made in Antigua to diminish labour by job or piece-work, but the result was very unsatisfactory, 8462—The work was done in so slovenly a manner that it caused frequent quarrels between the manager and the negro, *ib.*—They were constantly obliged to go before the magistrate, who usually sides with the labourers; objections generally to stipendiary magistrates, 8462-8472—Particulars relative to the importation of Portuguese into Antigua by witness; wages paid them, 8477-8483—There is a contract law in Antigua, but it is not in operation, 8484-8487.

There are naturally times of the year when more labourers are required than at other times, but at reduced wages more would be employed throughout the year, 8488-8497—In this case no great evil would arise if the number of labourers were fully equal to the demand at the particular period of the year in which they are required, 8495—If the price of labour could be kept at the present rate, witness might be able to continue the cultivation of his estate, but whether at a profit is doubtful, 8498-8502—The losses on the estate in 1844 and 1845 were very much owing to the earthquake in 1843; 8503-8506. 8519-8525—It would not be worth while to import labourers unless a continued protection could be obtained, 8511-8512.

COFFEE:

I. Cultivation of Coffee:

1. Brazil.
2. Ceylon.
3. Cuba.
4. Venezuela.
5. British West India Colonies :
 - i. Generally.
 - ii. Demerara.
 - iii. Jamaica.

II. Consumption of Coffee.

III. Duty on Coffee.

1. Cultivation of Coffee :

1. Brazil :

When witness visited Brazil in 1839 he found that such coffee as he wanted could not be bought; it was not prepared in the right manner; out of a crop of 80,000 tons he could not get more than twenty tons fit for England, *Farrer* 14119—Witness, considering the prices would remain high for some years, persuaded several planters to adopt the West India mode of preparation, *ib.* 14120—The result was successful, and in 1845 the import into England had amounted to 4,000 tons, *ib.* 14121—Coffee is by far the most material article of production in the Brazils; the larger amount of slave labour is engaged in coffee production, *ib.* 14122-14126—The coffee planters, as a body, are not satisfied with our legislation in reference to coffee, *ib.* 14127, 14128—They complain that though such an immense amount of British manufactures is taken by Brazil from England, we take in return so small a quantity of their produce, *ib.* 14129-14132, 14141, 14142—Evidence showing that the production of coffee in Brazil does not, on an average, yield a profit to its producers, *ib.* 14199-14212—Comparative shipments of coffee from Rio de Janeiro, with its destinations, during the years 1845, 1846, and 1847, *Rep.* viii. *App.* 9.

2. Ceylon

Circumstances which induced the firms with which witness is connected to embark in coffee cultivation in 1837, *Christian* 14286 *et seq.*—The principal inducements were the falling off of the production of coffee in the West India islands, and the large protective duty which British plantation coffee then enjoyed, *ib.* 14293-14308—The high price consequent upon these circumstances was of course a strong inducement, and the continuance of the high protective duty was also calculated upon; prices of coffee at various periods from 1838 to 1844, *ib.*—At the commencement of the cultivation every facility was given by the local government to the planters, *ib.* 14308—Every possible encouragement was held out to purchase land from the government, and to invest capital in cultivating coffee or other produce, *ib.*—Almost everybody in Ceylon purchased land at the time, and began growing coffee, and among them governors, judges, and a number of the clergy; the late archdeacon was one of the largest coffee growers in the island, *ib.* 14309—It would have been a profitable speculation if prices had remained what they were from 1838 to 1844, *ib.* 14310, 14311.

Increase in the production of coffee in Ceylon; the consumption of this coffee in England is not equal to the production, *Christian* 14312-14318—As regards the quality of the coffee, a great deal depends upon the situation of the estate, as regards elevation, *ib.* 14399-14403—Until lately a great deal of money has been made by the production of coffee in Ceylon, *ib.* 14509, 14510—The growers of Ceylon fear a competition with foreign countries very much, *ib.* 14515-14519, 14521-14528.

3. Cuba :

Coffee planting has been carried on to some extent in the island of Cuba; it is now declining, *Harbottle* 15403-15410—The planter felt that he could not successfully compete with the other coffee-producing countries of the world, and has now applied his labour to the cultivation of sugar, *ib.* 15404-15410, 15576-15580.

4. Venezuela :

The cultivation of coffee has gone on gradually increasing in Venezuela since 1839; exports in various years, *Syers* 14788-14794—The coffee is generally a very superior coffee; taking it on the average, it is superior to any coffee in the world, *ib.* 14801—Coffee constitutes the larger portion of the exports from Venezuela; the sugar is insignificant in amount, *ib.* 14823-14836.

5. British

COFFEE—continued.

I. Cultivation of Coffee—continued.

5. British West India Colonies :

i. Generally :

The cultivation of coffee is nearly driven out of the West Indies, *Higgins* 9925-9927—There is no reason why a certain quantity of coffee might not be produced in the West India islands at all times, *Crawford* 13108-13110—The only way in which the falling off in the cultivation of coffee of late years can be accounted for is, that the protecting duty on sugar was higher than that upon coffee, *ib.* 13111-13115.

ii. Demerara :

Circumstances under which witness became joint proprietor of a small coffee estate at Demerara, which is now being abandoned ; it has been a losing concern since witness has had it, since 1842, *Loxdale* 9430-9434—Up to 1837 it was profitable, *ib.* 9435—The circumstances which have interfered to make it a losing concern since that period, have been, an alteration of the duties, foreign coffee coming by the Cape, and the increased expense of labour since 1838, *ib.* 9436-9445—Statement of the produce on the estate above alluded to in various years, *ib.* 9483-9489—How far improvements have been carried out on the estate, *ib.* 9490-9495—The whole of the cotton cultivation in Demerara is entirely extinct, and the export of coffee has fallen off from 4,500,000 lbs. to 100,000 lbs., *ib.* 9699.

iii. Jamaica :

Produce of coffee in Jamaica at various periods, *Geddes* 8988-8994—Depressed state of the colony of Jamaica as regards the cultivation of coffee as well as that of sugar, *Borthwick* 12866-12906—The increased production of coffee in Ceylon is, no doubt, one of the main causes of the depression of the West India coffee estates, *ib.* 12959-12963.

II. Consumption of Coffee :

There has been a gradual increase in the consumption of coffee in this country of late years, *Christian* 14465-14473—Import, consumption, and export of coffee in England in 1847, *ib.* 14540-14547.

III. Duty on Coffee :

The cultivation of coffee in Ceylon was stimulated by the protection given in 1842, which protection was withdrawn before the planters had an opportunity of deriving any benefit from it, *Christian* 14620-14632.

See also *Abandonment of Estates*, I. II. 2. iii. *Ceylon. Classification Duties. Cost of Production*, I. *Duties*, I. *Prices*, I. *Venezuela*.

Colonial Distillers. See Rectifying Spirits. Rum.

Colonial Office. The misgovernment of successive administrations in the Colonial Office has proved the ruin of the Mauritius, *Chapman* 3561, 3562—However much the Colonial Office may have led parties connected with the Mauritius to believe that something would be done for them, the results have not been satisfactory, *Guthrie* 4216-4222.

See also *African Immigrants*, 5. *Anti-Slavery Society. Apprenticeship. Chinese Immigrants. Coolies*, II. 4. *Crown Lands. Immigration*, III. *Mauritius*, 4. *Revenue and Expenditure*, I. 3. *Sale of Lands. Squatting*.

Colonial Produce (British Guiana). Copy of despatch from Governor Light to Earl Grey, dated 14 February 1848, enclosing a petition for exemption of colonial free-labour produce from duty, *Rep.* vii. *App.* 256.

Colonial Spirits. See Distillers, 3, 4. *Rum.*

Colville, Andrew. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—West India proprietor; possesses two estates in Jamaica and one in Demerara; has been engaged as a merchant connected with the West Indies, chiefly with Jamaica, a great many years; 5747, 5748—Is generally well acquainted with the condition of Jamaica, 5749—Statement of the exports of sugar from Jamaica at various periods since 1831, showing a large falling off in such exports between that period and 1841; 5750-5757—Large falling off in the crops in 1838, the period of the expiration of the apprenticeship; the negroes refused to plant the canes, 5751-5757—Things began to mend in 1842, and continued to improve, with variations according to the season, up to 1846; 5758-5767.

Calculation, as regards witness's own estates, showing the probable results of the cultivation if the present prices of sugar and rum should prevail, 5768, 5769—In consequence of the fall in the price of West India sugar, the West Indies themselves have fallen into such discredit that the greatest difficulty has been found in raising money to pay the wages and carry on the business of the estates, 5770-5773—If prices con-

Colville, Andrew. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

tinue as they are, all but the best estates in Jamaica must go out of cultivation immediately, 5774—If this be the case the revenue of the island must fail, as the remaining estates would not be able to pay sufficient taxes to carry on the government, 5775—And public credit would fall as low as private credit now is; public credit at present is very low, 5776—Instances in which Government has advertised for loans and has not been able to get any bids, 5777-5781.

The colonies will have to fall back on the mother country to support their public institutions, if things remain in their present position, 5782. 5783—Statement of the annual colonial expenditure of the island of Jamaica from 1843 to 1846, both inclusive, 5784, 5785—How far any relief might be afforded to the island by reducing this expenditure, 5786 *et seq.*—How far a reduction of the salaries of the public officers, beginning with the governor, might lead eventually to a possibility of reducing the wages of the labourers, 5787-5803—The only remedial measure is to abandon the Act of 1846 and to fall back upon the Act of 1845; 5804-5848—That is the Act admitting free-labour sugar at a distinctive duty, 5805.

Other measures which would tend to the improvement of the condition of the West Indies, 5806 *et seq.*—One means would be by directing the whole of the captured Africans to be landed in the West Indies, to be indentured for three or five years with persons who have made proper arrangements for their accommodation and location, 5806-5814—Some proper arrangement might be made to prevent any risk of slave dealing, or any approach to it, in the procurement of those labourers, 5815-5820—Another remedial measure that witness would propose would be that the duties upon colonial rum and home-made spirits should be equalized, there being at present a distinction of 9 *d.* per gallon, 5821-5834.

Another measure that witness would suggest would be that sugar and molasses should be admitted into distilleries without payment of customs duty, 5835—He would propose also that sugar and molasses and syrup should be permitted to be refined in bond for home consumption, subject to the same duty when taken out of bond as the products would if they had been imported from the West Indies, *ib.*—Loans should be guaranteed to the colonies for the drainage or improvement of lands, on the same principle as was done to the landed interest of this country; extent to which such loan might possibly be required, 5835-5847.

Doubts as to whether a 10 *s.* protection for seven years to come against slave sugar would produce the desired effect of efficiently maintaining the cultivation of our own sugar colonies, 5848-5851—Object and application of the loans which the Home Government has already advanced to the islands of Guiana and Trinidad, 5852-5861—The liberated Africans spoken of by witness should be conveyed to the West Indies at the expense of the mother country; average expense per head of conveying them, 5862-5864—The construction of central factories as recommended by Lord Grey would not be found practically to work any good effect, 5865-5868—Reasons for forming the opinion that slave labour would be cheaper than free labour under almost any circumstances, 5869, 5870.

Neither under a system of freedom nor under a system of slavery could our colonies compete with Cuba, 5871-5889. 5917-5921—A large number of negroes might be obtained from the coast of Africa without a revival of the slave trade, 5890-5896—

Witness's expectation is that a very large number of these immigrants would find themselves much better off in the West Indies than they are in Africa and would remain there, 5897-5901—The duties on the importation of food into the colonies do not operate at all in the way of oppression to the consumer, 5902-5916.

If the Act of 1846 is maintained there is no hope of the colonies being able to continue their cultivation, 5922-5924—If the Government do not do something we shall be reduced to slave countries entirely for our supply of sugar, 5925—Any over-supply which might arise from assistance afforded by Government is an evil which would cure itself, 5926-5932—If nothing be done sugar cultivation must entirely cease, and when once it ceases it can never be revived, 5933—With a sufficiency of labour there is nothing in the West Indies themselves to prevent sugar being manufactured as cheaply as in other places, 5936-5954;

The colonies not only labour under a scarcity of labour, but also a want of control over the labourers, 5956—The introduction of fresh labourers would tend to make the old labourers more effective; great advantages which would result from this, 5957-5961—Evidence in detail showing that the great cause of the depression in the West Indies is the want of a sufficient price here for their sugar, 5962-5988—Further reasons why witness would wish to revert back to the Bill of 1845; 5989-6018—Further evidence as to the proposed application of the loan which is proposed to be made by the Government to British Guiana and Trinidad, 6019-6028.

Further reasons in favour of allowing sugar to be refined in bond; it would be practicable to bring the syrup here, 6029-6037—Prior to the year 1834 and to the extermination of slavery there were periods of great fluctuation in sugar, 6038—The present panic

Reports, 1847-48—continued.

Colville, Andrew. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

panic and crisis must have had some effect on the present depression in the West Indies; the failure of the West India Bank has also had an effect on it, 6040-6048—If the Sugar Bill of 1846 be persevered in, the effect will be to annihilate the production of sugar in our colonies, and thereby to give an encouragement to the production of sugar in slave-growing countries, 6055-6059.

Any protection, to be effectual, must be permanent, and not temporary, 6060, 6061—Further opinions in favour of the equalization of the rum duties, 6062-6064. 6067-6074—The West Indies have a just claim for protection, having invested their capital in the colonies on the faith of the regulation and laws and also under the encouragement of the mother country, 6065, 6066—Further evidence as to the mode in which immigration into the West India colonies might be beneficially carried out, 6075-6080—If our own colonies cease to produce sugar we should have for some time to look to slave countries for our supply, but in the course of time the East Indies would increase their production and extend their export to this country, 6082-6087

Commercial Embarrassments. See *Monetary Crisis.*

Commercial Policy. Witness's confidence in the security of any commercial policy has been entirely destroyed, *Kemshead* 1032.—See also *Free Trade.* *Santa Cruz.*

Compensation. Amount witness received for slave compensation at the period of emancipation, *Sir G. Larpent*, 3996, 3997—At the time of the emancipation of slaves the planters of the Mauritius generally upon the value of 70 *l.* got merely 28 *l.* or 30 *l.*, *Guthrie* 4080-4083—Jamaica received 19 *l.* odd compensation per head for the slaves, whilst the Government's own valuer valued them at 49 *l.*, *Price* 5243-5252—Fair compensation ought to be given to the West India planters for the losses sustained by the Abolition Act, *Innes* 13416-13426—A heavy loss having been inflicted by the British Parliament on the West India colonies, the planters have a strong claim upon this country for compensation, *Scott* 13477-13493—The payment that was made of 20,000,000 *l.* was very far from being an adequate compensation for the loss which resulted from the passing of the Abolition Act, *Miles* 13620.

Compensation Money. See *Emancipation of Slaves*, I.

Competition. Witness's objection to competition does not merely apply to slave-grown sugar, but to all foreign sugar, as he does not see how it is possible to admit free-labour sugar and exclude slave-labour sugar, *Higgins* 10095-10103—How far it has been good policy in this country to bring new colonies into competition with old ones, *Barkly* 11004-11009.

See also *Barbados.* *Brazil*, 2. *Cuba*, 3. *Emancipation*, II. *Foreign Colonists.* *Free Labour*, 2. *Machinery*, II. 3. i. *Protective Duty.* *Slave-grown Sugar.*

Concrete. Witness would recommend the West Indian planters to send concrete to this country in preference to concentrated cane juice, *Cruikshank* 10687—Evidence in detail relative to the process of manufacturing concrete by Mr. Archibald's patent, *Richardson* 11081 *et seq.*—See also *Cane Juice.*

Consumers. Witness is satisfied with the present price of sugar to the consumer; what he wants is a reduction of the duty paid by the planter, *Price* 5210-5229—There is no doubt the cheap price of an article is an advantage to the consumer, *Scott* 5354-5359.

Consumption of Sugar. The consumption in this country does not depend entirely upon the cheapness of price, *Scott* 5379—It depends upon the state of employment of the people generally, and their capability to buy sugar, *ib.* 5379-5385—There is no doubt the British possessions could produce sugar enough for the consumption of the United Kingdom, *Geddes* 9082-9101—The consumption would not be effected by a trifling rise in the price, *Lordale* 9634-9657. 9804-9808—If the British colonies were brought into full sugar cultivation by the sufficiency and efficiency of labour, there is no reason to fear that the importation into this country would much exceed the consumption; the consumption is greatly increasing, *ib.* 9630-9657—The uses to which it is to be applied are becoming every day more apparent, *ib.* 9658. 9670—Amongst these are brewing, and distilling, and large quantities are now consumed in confectionery, *ib.* 9659-9663. 9670—Statement of the comparative consumption of sugar for the six months ending January 1847 and January 1848, with the Gazette price at the time, *ib.* 9805—Statement of the monthly consumption of West India sugar in the United Kingdom; Gazette average price in bond, and total value for the year 1847, *Greene's Ev., Rep.* vii. p. 138.

Statement showing the monthly value of all sugars taken into consumption in the United Kingdom during the year 1847, distinguishing foreign from British, *Rep.* viii. App. 3—Statement of foreign sugar taken into home consumption in each month during 1847, with their respective average values, *ib.* 5—Statement of British sugar taken into home consumption in each month during 1847, with their respective average values, *Rep.* viii. App. 5—Letter from Mr. B. B. Greene, dated 12 May 1848, stating

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Consumption of Sugar—continued.

the grounds upon which he has formed his opinion as to the probable consumption of sugar in the year ending 5th January 1849, *ib.* 61—Consumption and average duty-paid price of sugar in the United Kingdom from 1821 to 1847, *ib.* 62—Consumption of sugar for the first three months and twelvemonths compared, in each year from 1831 to 1847, *ib.* 65.

See also *Differential Duties*, 2. *Distilling from Sugar*. *Native Consumption of Sugar*.

Content Estate (Jamaica). Statement of the annual crops of sugar on the Content estate, Jamaica, from 1843 to 1846, *Miles's Ev., Rep. v. p.* 235.

CONTINUOUS LABOUR:

I. Evils arising from the want of continuous Labour in the West India Colonies:

1. Generally.
2. Antigua.
3. Jamaica.
4. St. Kitt's.

II. Remedies suggested.

I. Evils arising from the want of continuous Labour in the West India Colonies:

1. Generally:

Opinion that Jamaica, Demerara, and Trinidad are the greatest sufferers from the want of continuous labour, *Shaw* 11566—The report which witness made to Government on his return to the West Indies, stated distinctly, under the heads of British Guiana, Trinidad, and Jamaica, that the whole of the planters looked forward to the impossibility of procuring continuous labour after the expiration of apprenticeship for moderate wages, *Innes* 13383—In the case of all the colonies, even where industrial laws exist, it is difficult to exact continuous labour where maintenance is so cheap, and the competition to obtain labourers so great; generally speaking, the labourers have the command of the labour market, *Hawes* 16352-16361—One of the greatest difficulties in the West Indies is the want of continuous labour, *ib.* 16358.

2. Antigua:

The difficulty with the labourers is to obtain continuous labour, *Tollemache* 8004—At present there is a sort of scramble for labourers, *ib.* 8005, 8006.

3. Jamaica:

Evidence as to the great difficulty of obtaining continuous labour, *Lord Howard de Walden* 4438-4445, 4610; *Price* 5002, 5003, 5007, 5008—The deficiency of labour is most particularly felt at the time of bringing the cane to the mill, and from this circumstance it is impossible to bring it all to the mill in the best state, *Lord Howard de Walden* 4600-4603—Practice of the negroes to work for a week and then disappear for weeks; this is ruinous to the planter, *Price* 5087-5097—Want of continuous labour; inconvenience of this, as the labourer cannot be depended upon when most wanted, *Dickson* 6496-6513—Higher wages will not tempt them, *ib.* 6514, 6515—Witness has personally experienced the want of labour in Jamaica at the period when it was most valuable, *ib.* 6771-6775, 6821-6836—As regards the cutting of the crop the planters are not subject to so much inconvenience; reasons for this, *Geddes* 8955, 8956.

4. St. Kitt's:

The increased cost of production may be mainly attributed to the want of cheap and continuous labour, *Greene* 6131.

II. Remedies suggested:

The reintroduction of night-work, which had ceased previous to emancipation, would be a great improvement, *Lord Howard de Walden* 4604, 4605—A species of apprenticeship, such as existed shortly after emancipation, would be the only means of curing the evils arising from the want of continuous labour, *Price* 5004-5006—The planters and others suffer, not so much from the want of continuous labour, as from the want of continuous labour at proper prices, *ib.* 5098-5103—They are not supplied with labour at a remunerative rate, and consequently cannot compete with the slave owner, *ib.* 5103, 5104—Explanation as to what witness infers in the term continuous labour; how far it would be practicable to obtain such continuous labour from the negroes now in the colonies; *Moody* 5584-5587—The only means by which labour could be rendered more continuous would be by making it more abundant, so as to make it advantageous for the negroes to work more steadily than they have hitherto done, *Hankey* 6954-6957—The only means which witness can suggest for making it more continuous would be by economizing the labour, thereby making the supply equal to the demand, *Tollemache* 8005, 8006—Difficulty of obtaining continuous labour in Barbados in 1842; great improvement which has taken place since, *Carrington* 11162-11164.

See also *Barbados*. *Clayed Sugars*. *Emancipation of Slaves*, II. *Free Labour*, 2. *Immigration*. *Labour*. *Provision Grounds*.

CONTRACT

CONTRACT SYSTEM OF LABOUR :

1. *Generally.*
2. *Expediency of a good Contract Law.*
3. *Suggestions as to the Mode in which the System should be carried out.*
4. *How far Objections to the Contract System exist.*

1. *Generally :*

Evidence in detail relative to the system of contracts in the Mauritius, *Chapman* 3486-3509—Since 1843, which was the period of short contracts, the loss to the planter of the labour of the Indian is more than fifty per cent.; it has decreased fully fifty per cent., from an assumed independence, and from a total change of character, *ib.* 3522-3529—Evils resulting from the present system of contracts with the labourers, *ib.* 3725-3728—Character of the present contracts with the labourers in the island of Jamaica, *Price* 5234-5240—Difficulties in the way of carrying out the contracts with the labourers in Grenada, *Hankey* 6924-6935—In September 1838 there was an Order in Council which made all contracts illegal except those which were entered into with the colony, *Marryat* 10217. 10254-10260—The present terms of contracts are so advantageous to the immigrants that they counteract the benefit of them to a very great degree, *ib.* 10254-10260—Contracts were discouraged in Trinidad by the government agents; general inactivity of the immigration agents, *ib.* 10306-10313—How far any distinction should be made between contracts with the native population and with the immigrants; difficulty of getting natives to enter into contracts, *Barkly* 10931—The negroes generally in St. Vincent are satisfied with the system of implied contracts, *Wolley* 11479-11482.

2. *Expediency of a good Contract Law :*

There ought to be some law which would insure to the planters the work of the labourers; the contract law should be simplified and rendered as efficient as possible, *Shand* 8137. 8223-8228. 8241-8248—The want of a contract law, and of an annual hiring is extremely injurious; it induces squatting, *ib.* 8198-8205—The Contract Act which is now in existence in Antigua is inoperative, *Shand* 8223-8228. 8241-8248; *Sir W. Codrington*, 8484-8487—In Antigua the demand for labour has been greater than the supply, as a large number of the labourers have become independent by reason of the high wages they have received; how far a law regulating contracts would be likely to remedy this, *Shand* 8229-8231—Such a law as the legislature of the island feel would be desirable and available should be sanctioned by the Home Government, *ib.* 8232-8240—There is a contract law in the colony of Demerara, but the paucity of labour is so great that it cannot be carried out, *Loxdale* 9458, 9459. 9574-9580.

3. *Suggestions as to the Mode in which the System should be carried out :*

There is no cure for the spirit of idleness and desertion but a prolonged engagement of service, *Chapman* 3534—The most desirable thing would be to lengthen the period for which the contracts might be made, with a power of enforcing these contracts in a legitimate manner, *ib.* 3584, 3585—The most satisfactory time for the Mauritius was the time when they had the apprenticeship combined with the five years' engagements, *ib.* 3602-3604—The planters should be allowed to make contracts with labourers out of the island, and to import immigrants under those contracts, *Moody* 5508. 5546—Immigration would not be desirable unless accompanied with contracts for a series of years, say for five years, *ib.* 5610-5614—Opinion that the planters of Jamaica would be satisfied with a shorter period of contract than five years, *Geddes* 8968-8970—Contracts for 12 months and a good vagrant law would be beneficial, but witness would rather the contracts should be for a longer period, *Higgins* 9838-9840. 10003-10012—The contract system of labour would be no more forced labour than practically exists in most of the agricultural parishes in the West of England, *ib.* 10192-10195.

What is especially required in Trinidad is an indenture for longer service, *Marryat* 10300—So that those who are at the cost of importing labourers should have the compensation of a longer period of service; three years would be fair, *ib.* 10300-10305—Alteration necessary in the contracts between masters and servants, *Shaw* 11776, 11777. 11794-11801—There should be a limit to the contract entered into with immigrants, but it is difficult to say whether it should be three or five years till it is seen how either plan works, *Miles* 13550—These things should be left to be decided by the Governor, instead of laws being made in this country on the subject, *ib.* 13550-13552. 13686-13691.

4. *How far Objections to the Contract System exist :*

Witness would rather see the immigrants landed perfectly free to engage with whomsoever they pleased, than that any system of contract should be pursued previously to their introduction, *Loxdale* 9682-9686—Still the contract system would be better than not having the people at all, *ib.* 9683—There would be great difficulty in introducing any contract system of service into Barbados, *Best* 11334, 11335—Witness's feeling is not favourable to contracts for labour, *Hawes* 16549-16551. 16553

CONTRACT SYSTEM OF LABOUR—continued.4. *How far Objections to the Contract System exist*—continued.

et seq.—We have not had the contract system tried sufficiently to justify any opinion upon its failure; but it is witness's opinion that it is unsound, and would probably not succeed, *Hawes* 16553-16570—There is proof in every one of the colonies, both as regards the Coolies, the Africans, and the Portuguese, that all the vagabondage and most of the immorality has dated its commencement from the expiration of the first period of the contracts, *ib.* 16561.

See also *Coolies*, II. 3. *Immigration*, III. 2.

Conveyance of Emigrants (Trinidad). How far the Government has made recently any arrangements for conveying emigrants from other parts of Africa besides Sierra Leone; particulars relative to the employment of the "Growler" for this purpose, *Marryat* 10261-10281.

COOLIES:I. *Ceylon.*II. *Mauritius:*

1. Cost of introducing these Immigrants; how far their Labour is of any Value.
2. Evidence as to the Moral Condition of the Coolies.
3. Evils arising from the present system of Contracts, and the want of Industrial Laws; Remedies suggested.
4. Restrictions imposed on the Coolie Immigration; discontinuance of the Immigration; Control of the Colonial Office over it.
5. Papers laid before the Committee.

III. *West India Colonies:*

1. Generally.
2. In particular Colonies:
 - i. British Guiana.
 - ii. Demerara.
 - iii. Jamaica.
 - iv. Trinidad.

I. *Ceylon:*

Evidence generally as to the employment of coolies in the island of Ceylon, the labour performed by them, and the rate of wages paid them, *Christian* 14373-14393.

II. *Mauritius:*

1. Cost of introducing these Immigrants; how far their Labour is of any Value:

Cost of bringing coolies to the Mauritius, *Hunter* 2395-2397—Average amount per head paid by the planters themselves on the immigration of coolies, *ib.* 2609-2612—Disadvantages which the planters labour under in the cultivation of their estates, and in the employment of these coolies, *Raymond* 2142 *et seq.*—Hours of labour of the coolies in the Mauritius, *ib.* 2176, 2177—Relative value, as labourers, of the natives of Bengal, Bombay, and Madras, showing the superiority of the Madrasees, *ib.* 2178-2186—Reasons for there being so few Bombay coolies in the Mauritius, as compared with the Bengalese, *ib.* 2202-2205—Statement containing an exact calculation as to the cost of Indian labour, *Chapman* 3483-3485—Calculated annual expense of employing 100 Indian labourers on a sugar estate, *Sir G. Larpent* 4021.

2. Evidence as to the Moral Condition of the Coolies:

There is no morality at all among the coolie population of the Mauritius, *Raymond* 2123. 2298-2305—Owing to the paucity of Indian women, and the dislike the negro women entertain for the Indians, the most revolting crimes are committed among them, *ib.* 2124. 2148. 2298-2305—They are much addicted to intoxication, *ib.* 2125—They are also subject to very many diseases; mode in which they are treated when sick, *ib.* 2126-2128—Impossibility of confining them to the hospitals from the want of proper hospital regulations; spread of disease consequent thereon, *Raymond* 2128, 2129. 2148.

The number of coolies imported into the Mauritius has been from 90,000 to 93,000, *Raymond* 2130-2148. 2229-2235—Depraved character of many of this number, *ib.* 2131-2133.

COOLIES—continued.

II. *Mauritius*—2. Evidence as to the Moral Condition of the Coolies—continued.

2131-2133. 2148—When witness left the island in 1847, at least 20,000 of them were vagabonds, *ib.* 2131-2141. 2148. 2306-2311—Number who have deserted their employers and turned thieves or left the island, *ib.* 2133-2141—The expense of importing them has consequently been lost to the island, *ib.*—One of the greatest benefits would be the introduction of a greater number of Indian women, *ib.* 2165, 2166—When witness left the island he considered the moral condition of the coolies was good, *Hunter* 2566-2574.

3. Evils arising from the present system of Contracts, and the want of Industrial Laws; Remedies suggested:

The laws for governing servants are inefficient; they do not allow the engagement of a coolie for a longer period than one year, *Raymond* 2142. 2148—Evils arising in consequence of this, 2143-2148—Such industrial laws should be passed as to secure to the planter a longer period of service, *ib.* 2146—With contracts for five or seven years the coolies might become more attached to the soil, *ib.* 2164. 2167. 2312-2321—There would be no difficulty in enacting such industrial laws as would prevent squatting and vagabondage, *ib.* 2236-2240—But it would be necessary to have an efficient police; present inefficient state of this body, *ib.* 2236-2239.

The first effect of the system of coolie immigration, so far as regards the sugar cultivation, was very successful; way in which the plan was at first carried out, *Hunter* 2395-2400. 2541-2548—At that time they came under a term of engagement for five years, *ib.*—Under this system there was very little vagabondage and absenteeism; it was nothing as compared with what it is now, *ib.* 2398-2401. 2412—Particulars as to the introduction of the one-year contract system in 1839; it has worked very badly; nature of the evils consequent upon the system, *ib.* 2398-2411. 2541-2548—Opinion that the coolies would again enter into the five years' engagement, *ib.* 2543-2548.

4. Restrictions imposed on the Coolie Immigration; discontinuance of the Immigration; Control of the Colonial Office over it:

Reference to the discussion which has taken place between the Court of Directors of the East India Company and the Queen's Government on the subject of coolie emigration; differences of opinion which have existed on points of detail, *Melville* 1397-1402—Grounds upon which the immigration into the Mauritius was discontinued in 1839, *Hunter* 2542—The Mauritius was injured by the importation of coolies having been prevented in 1838, *Sir G. Larpent* 4008—Circumstances which led to the alteration of the system, *ib.* 4009, 4010—The greatest part of witness's loss between 1838 and 1844 is to be attributed to the prohibition to import coolies in 1838; to the cessation of apprenticeship in 1839, and to the inadequate supply of labour till the alteration in 1842, *ib.* 4022-4026—Evidence as to the export trade of Madras to the Mauritius in rice, mainly in connexion with the export of coolies; particulars relative to the emigration of coolies to the Mauritius, *Ellis* 15934-15943—There have been various applications made to the Colonial Office by Mauritius merchants to be allowed to import coolies into that country in rice ships and other vessels, *Hawes* 16258—Order which has been recently issued from the Colonial Office on this subject, *ib.*—The importation of labour into the Mauritius is not governed wholly by the Colonial Office, but depends a good deal upon the consent of the East India Company to any arrangement which may be made, *ib.* 16258. 16385-16409—Explanation relative to the restrictions imposed on the coolie immigration into the Mauritius, *ib.* 16385-16409. 16582-16587.

5. Papers laid before the Committee:

Copy of despatch from Sir William Gomm to Earl Grey, dated 19 November 1847, enclosing statements of the engagements and discharges of Indian labourers, during September and October, and also of the rates of wages, *Rep. vii. App. 320*—Copy of letter from Mr. T. Caird to the Under Secretary to the Colonies, dated 10 June 1847, requesting instructions on Sir Wm. Gomm's application for the continuance of coolie immigration to Mauritius, *ib.* 342—Copy of letter from Mr. B. Hawes to Mr. Caird, dated September 1847, in reply to the foregoing letter, stating Earl Grey's inability to convey authority for complying with the requisition from Sir William Gomm, *ib.* 343.

III. *West India Colonies*:

1. Generally:

The expense of bringing coolies to the West Indies is too great, *Miles* 13546.

Reports, 1847-48—continued.

COOLIES—continued.

III. West India Colonies—continued.

2. In particular Colonies :

i. British Guiana :

Despatch from Earl Grey, dated 5 July 1847, relative to the measures adopted for promoting coolie emigration to British Guiana and Trinidad, *Rep. iii. App. 429*—Report of the Land and Emigration Commissioners on the same subject, *ib.*—Also despatch, dated 6 July 1847, transmitting further report of the Land and Emigration Commissioners on the arrangements made for the conveyance of coolie emigrants to the West Indies, *ib. 430*.

ii. Demerara :

Witness has employed several coolies ; they are not very strong, but are tolerably efficient labourers, *Loxdale 9747-9749*—There are about 4,000 coolies now on their way from India to Demerara, *ib. 9762-9764*—The Africans mix with the coolies ; they have no objection to work together, and to marry together, *ib. 9779-9782*.

iii. Jamaica :

High salaries of the coolie superintendents ; they are not of much use ; the whole system of coolie immigration was very ill managed, *Lord Howard de Walden 4561-4565*—The importation of coolies into Jamaica has not answered, *Price 5116-5118*—Coolie labourers will not do at all ; they are very poor labourers, particularly the Madras people ; the Africans would be the most desirable labourers to have, *Dickon 6573-6589*—The coolie immigration into Jamaica has been a failure up to the present time, *Borthwick 12936*—The coolies are of two classes, one set from Madras, and the other from Calcutta, *ib.*—The Madras people have invariably failed ; the Calcutta people have been better, *ib.*—The people in Jamaica attribute this to the fact that the coolies were not well chosen in India, *ib. 12936-12941*—Alphabetical list of estates upon which the coolies who arrived during the year ending 30th September 1847 have been located, with the names of their employers, and the number assigned to each, *Rep. iii. App. 398*—Return of all cases tried in the courts of Jamaica, in which coolies appeared either as prosecutor or defendant, for the year terminated on the 31st August 1847, *ib. 403*—Despatch from Governor Sir C. Grey to Earl Grey, dated 7th January 1848, forwarding report from the acting agent-general for immigration, containing an analysis of communications relative to the conduct and condition of coolie immigrants, *ib. 409*.

iv. Trinidad :

Some coolies have gone to Trinidad, but they have been found very expensive ; difference between the expense of importing a coolie and importing an African, *Murray 10241-10251*—So long as certain industrial regulations drawn up by Major Fagan, with the sanction of Lord Harris, in respect to the employment of coolies, were in force in Trinidad, the coolies proved very advantageous to the island, *Miles 13521, 13522, 13686-13695*—This code of regulations was disallowed by Lord Grey at the instigation of the Anti-Slavery Society, *ib. 13523, 13694*—Copy of these regulations delivered in and read, *Miles's Ev., Rep. v. p. 241-244*—Examination in explanation of various of these regulations, showing the nature of them, and the advantages arising from them, *Miles 13524-13532, 13686-13693, 13701-13703*—The effect of Lord Grey's disallowing this ordinance in 1847 has been a revival of the disturbance and irregularity which caused so many remonstrances in the years 1841 and 1842, as regards the conduct of the coolies, *ib. 13533*—Reason why the Colonial Office refused to sanction the industrial regulations with respect to the employment of coolies in Trinidad, drawn up by Major Fagan, with the sanction of Lord Harris, although these regulations proved very advantageous to the island while in force, *Hawes 16272, 16273, 16275-16287, 16566-16572*.

Copy of despatch from Lord Harris to Mr. Gladstone, dated 30 July 1846, transmitting regulations for Indian immigration, and a copy of the Trinidad coolie regulations, *Rep. vii. App. 263*—Copy of despatch from Lord Grey to Governor Lord Harris, dated 15 September 1846, in reply, and containing objections to the coolie regulations, *ib. 267*—Copy of despatch from Lord Harris to Earl Grey, dated 21 October 1846, enclosing message to the legislative council on the subject of coolie regulations, and also on inter-colonial immigration, *ib. 268*—Despatch from Earl Grey to Lord Harris, dated 1 March 1847, respecting the disallowance of the coolie regulations, *ib. 269*.

See also *African Immigrants, 1. Immigration. Labour.*

Copenhagen. See *Danish Colonies.*

Corn Distillers. See *Distillers. Distilling from Sugar.*

Corn Laws. Difficulty of ascertaining what relief has been afforded to the distillers by the repeal of the corn laws, *Gray 9314-9317*.—See also *Distillers, 3.*

COST

Reports, 1847-48—continued.

COST OF PRODUCTION:

I. *Coffee*:

1. Ceylon.
2. Venezuela.

II. *Spirits*.III. *Sugar*:

1. East Indies:

- i. Generally.
- ii. Bengal.
- iii. Madras.
- iv. Mauritius.
- v. Straits Settlements.

2. British West India Colonies:

- i. Generally.
- ii. Antigua.
- iii. Barbados.
- iv. Berbice.

2. British West India Colonies—
continued.

- v. British Guiana.
- vi. Demerara.
- vii. Grenada.
- viii. Jamaica.
- ix. St. Kitt's.
- x. Trinidad.
- xi. St. Vincent.

3. Danish Colonies:

- i. Generally.
- ii. Santa Cruz.

4. Dutch Colonies.

5. Spanish Colonies:

- i. Cuba.
- ii. Porto Rico.

I. *Coffee*:

1. Ceylon:

Statement relative to the produce and the expenditure on a coffee estate favourably situated in Ceylon, *Christian* 14319-14333. 14341-14343—One of the great expenses of the planter is the cost of transit of the coffee, *ib.* 14396-14398—The present price of coffee does not pay the cultivators, *ib.* 14513—Some part of the difficulties of Ceylon arise from the expense of transit, and from the great cost of labour consequent upon the high price of rice, *ib.* 14587, 14588. 14594-14610—Cost of production of coffee in Ceylon, exclusive of the charges of transit; price of this coffee in England, *ib.* 14662-14665. 14678-14705—Estimate of expenditure on the estate of Weraloo (coffee plantation) from 1st January to 31st December 1848, *Anstruther's Ev., Rep.* vii. p. 148—Estimated expenditure on the estate of Hyndford, from 1st January to 31st December 1848, *ib.*

2. Venezuela:

Cost of labour at the present time as regards coffee planting, *Syers* 14781-14787—Cost of production of coffee of a fair average quality in Venezuela; price this coffee bears at the present time in this country, *ib.* 14819-14822. 14840-14852. 14889-14915—With continuous and efficient labour the cost of production might be reduced, but not sufficiently to compete with West India and Ceylon coffee, *ib.* 14868-14870.

II. *Spirits*:

On a Commission of Excise Inquiry, of which Sir Henry Parnell was chairman, evidence was taken in 1834 as to the expense of manufacturing spirits, *Wood* 14933—Reference to the statement made by various distillers as to the excise restrictions increasing immensely the cost of manufacture; with details of the way in which they consider it so affects the expense, *ib.*—Reasons for doubting the correctness of the statement which has been made that the distillers are subject to a very heavy expense in consequence of having to keep servants to watch the excise, *ib.* 14973.

III. *Sugar*:

1. East Indies:

i. Generally:

Average cost price of sugar in India in 1839, *Kemshead* 1211-1213—Some economy might be introduced into the cultivation and manufacture of sugar in India by combining the sugar cultivation with that of indigo, *Alexander* 1954-1959—Witness would say that 12s. a cwt. would be the lowest price, on an average, at which the sugar that comes to this country could be produced, *ib.* 1957.

ii. Bengal:

Detail of the various expenses of the cultivation in Tirhoot; terms on which the land is held; rent per acre, &c., *Crooke* 79-86—Wages paid; coolies are employed; amount of labour performed by them as compared with Africans: season during which they are employed,

COST OF PRODUCTION—continued.

III. Sugar—1. East Indies—continued.

ii. Bengal—continued.

employed, *Crooke* 87-98. 217-219—Tax to which the land is subject, *ib.* 99-103—Produce and cost of sugar-making on witness's farm on an average of five years; highest price at which this sugar has been sold in England; very little sugar has been made, *ib.* 107-119.

Lowest price at which sugar can be grown for exportation at Calcutta, *Wray* 405-413—There has been no material alteration in the price of the raw article or goor in the neighbourhood of Calcutta of late years, *Kemshead* 1201-1210. 1215, 1216—Evidence in detail showing that sugar cannot be produced at Calcutta at less than eight rupees a maund, *Tucker* 1271-1277—Reference to a work published by Mr. Colebrooke, in which he calculates that sugar can be produced at Calcutta for six rupees the maund, *ib.* 1271-1277. 1289-1292.

iii. Madras:

Cost at which sugar can be produced and delivered in Madras; price which this sugar would fetch in England, *Prideaux* 1334-1338—Opinion that no improvement in the progress of manufacture would reduce the cost of the production in Madras to 16 s. a cwt., *Arbutnot* 2063—Correction of former evidence, showing that the cost of production as stated therein by witness, was considerably under the mark, *ib.* 2865—Cost of producing the sugar from cane in Madras, *Ellis* 15849-15859—There is no great room for any reduction in the cost, *ib.* 15780-15783. 15895-15899.

iv. Mauritius:

Evidence as to the cost of production of sugar in the Mauritius, *Hunter* 2749, 2750—Detailed statement showing the present average cost of Mauritius sugar free on board ship in Port Louis, and price at which it can be delivered in this country, including freight, commission, and insurance, *Chapman* 3452-3472—Further evidence as to the cost of production of sugar in the Mauritius, *ib.* 3745-3761—Information with respect to the cost of sugar in 1844, when the duty was reduced, *ib.* 3835—Statement showing the total cost of production of a crop of 75,000,000 lbs. of sugar by 200 estates, with labourers' wages at 250 dollars (50 l.) per month; the number employed as 20,000 men; the interest of capital 4½ per cent. per annum, and the value of the land, &c., 30,000 l. per 1,000,000 lbs. of sugar, *Sir G. Larpent* 4021—Statement showing the probable net proceeds of the crop 1844-45, taking the quantity at 75,000,000 lbs. of sugar, of which 67,500,000 lbs. white or vesou sugar sold in London at the London average gazette price of the 17th October 1843, viz. 23s. 3d. per cwt., and 7,500,000 lbs. of syrup sugar sold at Mauritius at an average of \$3 (12 s.) per 100 lbs. French weight, *ib.*—Reference to a statement made by witness at a deputation which waited upon Lord John Russell, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Lord Grey, that he reckoned that the average cost of sugar in the Mauritius ranges from 12 s. as a minimum, to 25 s. as a maximum, *Guthrie* 4047-4055—Detail of the cost of the production of sugar; price at which it can be delivered in this country, including freights and charges, insurance, &c.; price which this sugar will now fetch in England, *ib.* 4106-4122.

v. Straits Settlements:

Estimate in detail of a sugar estate, say of 677 acres, 300 under sugar cultivation, showing the cost at which sugar may be cultivated in Province Wellesley, in the Straits settlements, *Wray* 426-436—Total expense of what may be termed the plant or block, with anticipated return for the outlay, as regards the first crop, taking the price of sugar at 13 s. per cwt., and the rum at 1 s. 6d. per gallon, *ib.*—Further details of witness's estimate as to the cost of cultivation of sugar, and the return for the outlay, *ib.* 450 *et seq.*—Particulars as regards the return of the second crop, which may be taken as a fair average of all future crops, taking the price of sugar still at 13 s. per cwt., and the rum at 1 s. 6d. per gallon, *ib.* 453-463.

2. British West India Colonies:

i. Generally:

Evidence showing that the cost of producing sugar in the West India colonies is greater than it was previously to emancipation, *Scott* 5322, 5323—With a sufficiency of labour, there is nothing in the West Indies themselves to prevent sugar being manufactured as cheaply as in other places, *Colville* 5936-5954—Abstract of returns showing the cost of producing sugar in various of the West India colonies during the last three years of slavery, three years of apprenticeship, and the first three years of free labour, exclusive of interest on land and plant, and inclusive of rum and molasses, *Higgins* 9815—The comparative profits of these various periods speak to the truth of the statement

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i. Generally—continued.

ment which witness has put in, and against that of those who allege that free labour is cheaper than slave labour, *Higgins* 9816-9818—Although the statement has been made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer as a proof that the West India colonies were as badly off in the years 1829, 1830, 1831, and 1832, from the fact that they produced sugar as cheaply as it is sold for now, the statement that the cost of production at that time was much less has been kept back, *ib.* 9875-9881. 9938-9952—The chief point is to supply our colonies with sufficient labour to enable the planters to reduce the cost of their production to such an extent as to compete with slave labour, *Barkly* 10995-10999. 11003—Even if the effect of the measures proposed by witness were to be such as to increase the production to that extent that would keep prices as low as they now are, still the planters would have the benefit of a cheaper cost of production, *Miles* 13642-13664.

ii. Antigua :

Cost at which witness might bring sugar to this market if he were successful in all the reductions he has attempted, *Tollemache* 7877-7900—The cost of production of sugar might be eventually very much reduced, *ib.* 8043-8047—Evidence in detail, showing the expenditure on witness's estates for four years before emancipation, and for every year since, *Shand* 8093-8104—In 1845-46, out of the nine estates witness and his partners are the proprietors of, there were only one or two which turned their expenses, and left a small profit; on the other estates there was a large loss, *ib.* 8105-8107—Information on the subject of the reduction in the cost of labour and in the cost of cultivation in Antigua; evidence generally as to the rates of wages, *ib.* 8108-8126—Further detail of the cost of production on witness's estates, previously to emancipation; total cost for three years prior to emancipation, and for each subsequent year up to 1847; showing that by the alteration from slave to free labour the cost has been trebled, *ib.* 8266-8295—Reasons why witness differs from the opinion expressed by Mr. Tollemache, that by economy of labour, the cost of cultivation might be very much reduced, *Sir W. Codrington* 8441-8447—Lowest price at which sugar can be produced in Antigua, *Pell* 9187, 9188.

iii. Barbados :

Difference in the expense of cultivation during apprenticeship and during slavery, *Dummett* 7332-7352—Material difference in the cost of production of sugar after the apprenticeship was concluded, as compared with the period of apprenticeship, *ib.* 7360-7369. 7465-7490—Enormous increase in the cost of production of sugar in Barbados since the abolition of the apprenticeship system; cause to which this may be attributed, *ib.* 7431-7435—Addition that has taken place in the cost of cultivation since 1832, *ib.* 7593-7624. 7628-7650—Cost of production of sugar in Barbados, *Carrington* 11254—Comparative cost of production of sugar during slavery, during apprenticeship, and since freedom, *Best* 11282 *et seq.*—Copy of despatch from Governor Reid to Earl Grey, dated 26 February 1848, on the state and cost of the sugar cultivation in the island, *Rep. vii. App.* 282—Despatch from the same to the same, dated 8 March 1848, enclosing tables showing the average cost of producing sugar on various estates, *ib.*

iv. Berbice :

The reduction in the cost of production may be attributed partly to their good crops, and partly to a better supply of labour, on account of the immigration which has taken place, *Barkly* 10754-10759—Items in which and extent to which reductions might be made in the cost of production, *ib.* 10775 *et seq.*

v. British Guiana :

Even with rather more than the average seasons, nothing short of a price of about 31 s. would make it worth the while of the planters to go on in British Guiana, *Barkly* 10762-10766—Without the planter had the means of reducing the cost of production in his own power, either by means of obtaining immigration or insisting upon the reduction of wages and other expenses, *ib.* 10766—On most of the estates the cost of labour forms more than one half of the cost of production, *ib.* 11036-11038.

vi. Demerara :

Cost of production of sugar upon one of the estates for which witness is agent, in 1836, 1837, and 1844; cost of production in the intermediate years, the labour varying from 1s. 8d. to 2 s., *Lordale* 9446-9457. 9478-9482—The cost of production was rather
0.32. under

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vi. Demerara—continued.

under the average in 1847; the cultivation was in better order, *Loxdale* 9480—The reason that sugar does not pay is the increased cost of manufacture from our having free instead of slave labour, *ib.* 9704.

vii. Grenada :

Detail showing the result of cultivation of six estates in Grenada, 1831 to 1847, *Hankey* 6857-6887—The result shows an immense falling off in the returns from these estates since emancipation, and consequently the falling off of the value thereof, *ib.*—Statement in detail, showing the expenditure upon these estates, and the cost of raising each hundredweight of sugar in each year from 1831 to 1847, *ib.* 6881-6884—These estates have had all the advantages which capital, machinery, and improvement could effect, *ib.* 6888, 6889—Witness's intention and that of his co-proprietors, as to the future cultivation of these estates, is to go on with it if they can; in consequence of the abandonment of other estates in the neighbourhood, they may perhaps get additional labour, *ib.* 6890-6893.

viii. Jamaica :

Statement of the average cost of one cwt. of sugar on 16 estates in the county of Cornwall, *Lord Howard de Walden's Ev., Rep.* iii. p. 7—Average cost of the production of sugar at the present time; cost of bringing the sugar to the British market, *Lord Howard de Walden* 4640-4648. 4652-4657. 4665-4669—Statement showing the expenses of cultivation, &c. on four estates in Jamaica for which witness's house are consignees, for each of the years 1843 to 1846; the produce and net proceeds thereof, the cost per cwt. of sugar, and the profit or loss, *Greene* 6146-6154—Statement of the cost of production of sugar in Jamaica under slavery, *Geddes* 8912-8916—The production has for some years past been carried on at a loss; the outlay of the planter has not been met by the gross amount of the produce, *ib.* 8964—Therefore a reduction of one-half of the present rates would not enable the planter to hold his own, *ib.*—Average cost of producing sugar in Jamaica, *Borthwick* 12871-12875—Statement of the average cost of sugar per hogshead and hundredweight, and net proceeds per hogshead, as per sales in England, of seven estates in Jamaica for 16 years, from 1831 to 1846 inclusive, *Miles's Ev., Rep.* v. p. 231-235—Copy of the report of the Jamaica Assembly Committee, relating to the cost of sugar cultivation, dated 18th December 1847, *Rep.* vii. *App.* 153 *et seq.*

ix. St. Kitt's :

Statement showing the expenses of cultivation, &c. on the total of four estates in St. Kitt's of which witness had the management, for each of the years 1843 to 1846, *Greene* 6146-6149—These four estates had been profitable up to 1846; they used at one time previously to emancipation to bring in more than 30,000 *l.* a year, and now there is a loss of 2,000 *l.* a year, *ib.* 6150-6154—Cost per cwt. of the production of sugar in St. Kitt's, *ib.* 6096-6102—Cost of producing sugar in St. Kitt's during the years of slavery; cost during the four years of apprenticeship, *ib.* 6111-6117—Evidence showing that the production of sugar in St. Kitt's was much cheaper under slavery than it is now; how far they were then able to compete with Cuba, *ib.* 6198-6212—Price at which witness considers 200 acres of land might be kept in sugar cultivation with continuous labour, *Pickwood* 14076-14089.

x. Trinidad :

Decrease in the produce and great increase in the cost of production subsequently to the termination of the four years of apprenticeship, *Marryat* 10219-10222—Detail of the cost of production of sugar in Trinidad, *ib.* 10372, 10373. 10482-10501. 10545-10558—Statement of the average cost of sugar per hogshead and hundredweight, and net proceeds per hogshead, as per sales in England, of five Trinidad estates, from 1845 to 1847 inclusive, *Miles's Ev. Rep.* v. p. 236-238—Proportion the labour bears to the cost of production in Trinidad, *ib.* 13575-13580. 13624-13627.

xi. St. Vincent :

Statement showing the average cost of producing sugar in St. Vincent, *Wolley* 11385. 11457-11462—Statement showing the cost at which sugars were produced, taking a period of five years, during slavery, on an estate in St. George's parish, and also during the

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xi. St. Vincent—continued.

the four years of apprenticeship, *ib.* 11500-11505—Observation made in a letter received by witness from Mr. Wolley, that the witnesses who have given evidence before this Committee as to the cost of producing sugar deduct the proceeds of rum and molasses from island expenses, *Miles* 13533—Mr. Wolley from this circumstance considers that an erroneous impression is given as to the cost of production, *ib.*

3. Danish Colonies :

i. Generally :

Cost of the production of a cwt. of sugar in the Danish islands, *Shaw* 11581.

ii. Santa Cruz :

In consequence of their being able to obtain continuous labour in Santa Cruz, the use of the machinery is rendered more effective; advantage this gives in the cheap production of sugar, *Moody* 5441-5449—Comparison of the expense of making sugar in the British free colonies with the expense of making it in slave-holding countries, *ib.* 5450-5453—Table showing the cost of interest of capital laid out in machinery and fuel to make 400 tons of sugar from the cane, by the beet-root machinery, grinding included, with the necessary skilled white labour and unskilled black and white labour, in slave and free labour colonies respectively, *Rep.* iii. *App.* 469.

4. Dutch Colonies :

Witness has no reason to believe that private sugar costs more than Government sugar, *St. Martin* 12036.

5. Spanish Colonies :

i. Cuba :

Cost of production of sugar in Cuba, *Moody* 5562-5564—Comparison between the increased cost of production in Cuba and the Mauritius, *Greene* 6372-6379—Details of the annual expense, *Higgins* 9903—Further examination upon the statement delivered in by witness of the cost of production of sugar in Cuba, *ib.* 10156-10177—Evidence as to the cost of production of sugar in Cuba, *Barkly* 11068-11074.

Statement as to the produce of Cuba, *Greene* 6190-6193—Value of a sugar estate with all its appurtenances, Cuba, March 1846; calculated by Mr. Duggan, administrator of the Saratoga Ingenio, *Higgins's Ev., Rep.* iv, p. 86-88—Data upon which witness comes to the conclusion that wages do not enter so much into the cost of production as other things, *Crawford* 13071-13074—If the statement which has been made, that the expense of producing sugar in Cuba is not more than 12s. a cwt., and in Jamaica and other West India colonies it is 27s., be correct, its production in the West India islands is at an end forever under the existing system, *ib.* 13082—No amount of immigration could make up this difference, *ib.* 13083-13085—Information in regard to the cost of producing sugar in Cuba, *Harbottle* 15348-15368. 15622 *et seq.*—There is no great difference between the cost of cultivation and production of sugar on one side of the island or the other, the only difference would be as regards the transport, *ib.* 15516-15536—Estimate of the cost of a well-appointed and well-conducted sugar estate in Cuba, producing from 500 to 630 tons of sugar per annum on the average, say, 560 tons or 2,800 boxes, *Harbottle's Ev., Rep.* vii, p. 4—Estimate of the cost of production of sugar in Cuba, supposing that the planter, not possessing an adequate capital, were obliged to borrow it of a refactioniste on guarantee of crops, *Harbottle* 15387-15389.

ii. Porto Rico :

Cost of cultivating sugar in Porto Rico; decrease therein, *Shaw* 11607-11609. 11616-11619.

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COTTON CULTIVATION :

I. Generally.

II. East Indies.

III. West Indies :

1. Jamaica.

2. Demerara.

I. Generally :

Wherever sugar cultivation comes into competition with cotton, the cultivation reverts to sugar instead of cotton, *Higgins* 10036-10040.

II. East Indies :

Witness attaches great importance to the extension of the cultivation of cotton in India, *Alexander* 1864, 1865—As regards cotton, India is worse off than she was by nearly six millions sterling a year, *Tucker* 1254-1256—In former times India, in a great measure, paid her tribute through her cotton manufactures; she exported about 3,000,000 *l.*; the case is now reversed, and she imports largely, *ib.*—One of the principal articles to which she looks to be compensated for this great loss is by turning her attention to the cultivation of sugar, *ib.* 1257, 1258. 1295, 1296—Particulars as to the great change which has taken place in the resources of India as regards the articles of cotton and cotton goods, *ib.* 1303-1314. 1317, 1318. 1321-1323.

III. West Indies :

1. Jamaica :

Cotton cultivation and sugar cultivation cannot co-exist; witness remembers a cotton plantation in Jamaica, but it has been found by experience that the cotton cultivation always gives way before the sugar cultivation, *Geddes* 9004, 9005—Reasons for forming the opinion that although sugar cultivation is not now profitable, cotton is not likely to take its place, *ib.* 9006-9014.

2. Demerara :

When witness first went to the country there were nearly 20 miles of cotton, all of which has gone out of cultivation in consequence of the paucity of labour, *Loxdale* 9695—If sugar did not pay they would not take to growing cotton and coffee again; they would not try cotton, as they could not compete with the slave-grown cotton of America, *ib.* 9700-9703.

Cotton Manufactures. Witness has prepared a statement, showing the export of cotton manufactures of all descriptions to the different sugar countries for the nineteen months subsequent and for the nineteen months antecedent to the 22d August 1846, when the last Sugar Act passed, *Burn* 16130—Statement of the results of these calculations, *ib.* 16131, 16132—Table of cotton goods exported to sugar-growing British colonies, from 22 January 1845 to 22 August 1846; and also from 22 August 1846 to 22 March 1848, *Burn's Ev., Rep.* vii, p. 56, 57—Table of cotton goods exported to Cuba, Porto Rico, and Brazil, from 22 January 1845 to 22 August 1846; and also from 22 August 1846 to 22 March 1848, *ib.* 58—Summary of the foregoing tables, showing the decrease in these exports to the British colonies within the last nineteen months, and the increase to Cuba, Porto Rico, and the Brazils, *ib.* 59. 61; and *qq.* 16162-16168—Estimate of the number of persons engaged in the cotton trade; table of the population connected with the cotton trade, from the census of 1841, *Burn* 16133.

The price of cotton is a thing entirely irrespective of the duty on sugar, *Burn* 16169, 16170—The price is entirely referable to demand and speculation, *ib.* 16169-16173—At the beginning of 1847 the price of cotton was very much enhanced, from the fact of nearly the whole of the cotton in Liverpool being held in four hands, *ib.* 16173, 16174—Consequently the falling off in the exports for the last nineteen months may be partly attributed to this circumstance, *ib.* 16173-16185—The falling off in the number of hands employed in the cotton trade in 1847, as compared with 1845 and 1846, may be principally attributed to the high price of cotton, *ib.* 16201-16204—The decrease in the cotton manufacture in 1847 was greater than the whole manufacture in 1826, *ib.* 16216-16218—Quantity of cotton entered for home consumption in 1826, *ib.* 16218—Consumption of cotton, calculated at the present average weight, in 1824, 1825, and 1826, and in 1836, 1837, and 1838, *ib.* 16218, 16219—State of trade and labour in the cotton manufacturing districts, 1826, *Burn's Ev., Rep.* vii, p. 70—Return of cotton goods exported to British colonies and to Cuba, Porto Rico, and Brazil, from 22 June 1843 to 22 January 1845, *ib.* 70-73.

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Crab Island. Cultivation of sugar on Crab Island, near Porto Rico; this island is claimed by England, by Denmark, and by Spain, *Shaw* 11550-11553.

Crawford,

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Crawford, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has lived 20 years in tropical countries, and has given a great deal of attention to tropical husbandry, 13020-13023—The countries in which witness has been have been chiefly sugar-producing countries, 13024-13026—The requisites to fit a country for the production of sugar, when it has to come into competition in a distant market, are a very rich soil, plenty of it, inexhaustible for all practical purposes, abundance of skill and capital, and, above all things, good government and security of life and property, 13027—More importance is to be attached to these circumstances than to the cheapness or abundance of labour, 13028-13035—A rich soil, and abundance of it, is the most essential element for the production of sugar, 13030.

The reason for the average sugar production of Bengal being so small, compared with the extent of country which would produce sugar, is the high rent of the land and the large amount of assessment for revenue, 13030-13043. 13141-13150—Evidence generally relative to the production of sugar in Java, where the rents are also high, 13044-13055—In the India islands the cultivation and manufacture of sugar are mostly carried on either by, or under the direction of the Chinese; value of the Chinese as labourers, 13056-13070.

Data upon which witness comes to the conclusion that wages do not enter so much into the cost of production as other things, 13071-13074—The mere introduction of more labourers into the West India Islands could not have the effect of lessening the cost of production, or enabling the planter to compete in the open market with lands of more fertility, 13076-13081—The effect of any large importation of labour would be to produce rent; there is a very high rent in Barbados at the present time, although this island is thickly peopled, 13077-13081. 13083-13085. 13121-13131.

Any large introduction of labourers into the West India colonies would swamp Barbados and Antigua, 13077—If all the West India islands were able to produce more sugar it would not be an advantage to them, but if the market were thrown open to them and to all other countries, it would benefit the country which had the most fertile soil, 13081—If the statement which has been made, that the expense of producing sugar in Cuba is not more than 12s. a cwt., and in Jamaica and other West India colonies it is 27s., be correct, its production in the West India Islands is at an end for ever under the existing system, 13082—No amount of immigration could make up this difference, 13083-13085—No beneficial result would follow from the introduction of Chinese labourers into the West India colonies, 13086-13089.

If the law of 1846 remain in existence, it is a hopeless case for the West Indies the continuing to cultivate sugar, except in particularly favoured localities, 13090-13093—In the event of the cessation of the sugar cultivation, rice and indigo might be profitably cultivated in the West Indies, 13094-13107—But the grand desideratum for these islands is good husbandry, which in tropical countries mainly depends upon the manner in which irrigation is applied; Java instanced in support of this assertion, *ib.*—How far facilities exist in the West Indies for carrying out a system of irrigation, 13100, 13101. 13132-13140.

There is no reason why a certain quantity of coffee might not be produced in the West India islands at all times, 13108-13110—The only way in which the falling off of the cultivation of coffee of late years can be accounted for is, that the protecting duty on sugar was higher than that upon coffee, 13111-13115—If any assistance be given to the West Indies by the mother country, it should be rather to assist public works, such as works of irrigation, than in aid of the importation of labour, 13116. 13132-13140—Drainage as practised in this country is not applicable to the West Indies or any other tropical country, 13117—Witness concurs entirely with Mr. Wray's evidence as regards the Chinese labourers, 13118-13120—As regards beet-root sugar coming into competition with the sugar of our colonies, if the same duties be everywhere imposed upon beet-root sugar and cane sugar, and trade be free with respect to both, beet-root sugar has not a leg to stand on, 13151-13154.

Credit (Mauritius). The discredit into which the planters of the Mauritius are now thrown by the Act of 1846, makes it impossible for them to obtain advances to carry on their cultivation, *Guthrie* 4057-4059.

Crime. See *Coolies*, II. 2.

Crooke, Arthur. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Merchant at Liverpool; with his brothers, has had transactions in most parts of the world, and has since 1840 been personally engaged in the cultivation of sugar in the East Indies, 44-46—History of these transactions in sugar cultivation, and details on the subject of sugar cultivation in the East Indies generally, 47 *et seq.*—Purchase of an indigo factory by witness's house in Sarun, near Tirhoot, for the purpose of carrying out sugar cultivation; means of inland communication, 47-49—The object of this purchase was from seeing that the sugar cultivation in the West Indies was falling off, 47—Quantity of cane planted in the first year; the cultivation and manufacture being entirely new to Europeans, the West Indian plan of manufacture was adopted, 49—Various qualities of the soil; the principal may be classed as boongah and phoolponky; description of these soils, 50-53—

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Experiments made in each of these soils; the latter proved to be the best for cane, 53—No sugar had been previously cultivated in the neighbourhood as an article of export, but merely for local consumption, to use with tobacco, 54—Experiments made in the cultivation of the various kinds of cane, such as the Otaheite, the Chinae, and the Bogga-cane, the latter two being native canes, 55, 56. 58-62—Produce of these various canes, showing the result in favour of the Chinae cane, 59-62—Tirhoot is more subject to droughts than the West Indies; and is also very subject to inundations, 63-66—Capital invested by witness's firm in steam machinery and new buildings; immense expense of conveying the machinery from England, 67-77.

Great cost of the transit from Calcutta to Tirhoot; dangerous nature of the navigation, 73. 76, 77—The sugar manufactured was of very good quality, 78—Detail of the various expenses of the cultivation; terms on which the land is held; rent per acre, &c.; number of acres held, 79-86—Wages paid; coolies are employed; evidence in detail as to the amount of labour performed by the coolies, generally, and as compared with Africans; season during which they are employed, 87-98. 217-219—Tax to which the land is subject, 99-103—Great number of restrictions in India on the manufacture of rum, 104-106—It is fully proved that from these restrictions and other difficulties the manufacture of it cannot be carried on at a profit, *ib.*

Produce and cost of making sugar, on an average of five years, on witness's farm; highest price at which this sugar has sold in England; very little sugar has been made, 107-119—Amount witness's firm have invested in the culture and manufacture of sugar in India; taking the expenses of the factory year by year, they have always lost money, 120-125—Up to the present time a great deal of the outlay has been for buildings, putting up machinery, &c., so that the concern can hardly be said as yet to have had fair play, 126-145—Difficulty therefore of telling whether it can be grown profitably or not in Tirhoot upon witness's principles of cultivation, 126—Price of sugar which would have repaid the outlay; lowest price at which it can be cultivated, 135-145. 148—A great deal is to be done by irrigation and manuring, 146, 147.

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Crops :

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CUBA:

1. *Particulars as to the Slave Trade in Cuba.*
2. *Cultivation and Export of Sugar.*
3. *Impossibility of the British Colonies competing with Cuba.*

1. *Particulars as to the Slave Trade in Cuba:*

Particulars as to the amount of the slave trade at Cuba, *Lord Palmerston* 5—There is no doubt if the Governor of Cuba chose to exert the powers vested in him, the landing of

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CUBA—continued.

1. *Particulars as to the Slave Trade in Cuba*—continued.

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See also *Brasil*, 2. *Chinese Immigrants*, *Clayed Sugars*. *Coffee*, I. 3.
Cotton Manufactures. *Emancipados*. *Emancipation of Slaves*. *Freights*.
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CULTIVATION OF SUGAR :

I. *Generally*.II. *In the British West Indies* :

1. *Generally*.
2. *British Guiana*.
3. *Jamaica*.
4. *St. Kitts*.
5. *Trinidad*.
6. *St. Vincent*.

III. *In Cuba*.IV. *In India* :

1. *Generally*.
2. *Bengal*.
3. *Tirhoot*.

V. *In Java*.VI. *In Santa Cruz*.I. *Generally* :

The requisites to fit a country for the production of sugar, when it has to come into competition in a distant market, are, a very rich soil, plenty of it, inexhaustible for all practical

CULTIVATION OF SUGAR—continued.

I. Generally—continued.

practical purposes, abundance of skill and capital, and above all things, good government, and security of life and property, *Crawford* 13027—More importance is to be attached to these circumstances than to the cheapness or abundance of labour, *ib.* 13025-13035.

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2. British Guiana :

Estimated acreage of land under sugar cultivation in British Guiana, *Barkly* 11033, 11034.

3. Jamaica :

The cultivation of land in Jamaica is very various; how far the best land in Jamaica is equal in cultivable power, to the land in Cuba, *Lord Howard de Walden* 4596-4599—Statement of the comparative success, in a commercial point of view, of the cultivation of sugar plantations under slavery, under apprenticeship, and latterly under freedom, *Morton* 6385 *et seq.*—It was generally successful under slavery; comparatively so under apprenticeship; but latterly has materially altered for the worse, *ib.* 6385, 6386—As regards the cultivation of sugar the land should be prepared and cleaned for a longer time before it is used; this might be done by the plough, *Dickon* 6479, 6480. 6531-6533—Witness can perfectly confirm the evidence which has been given before the Committee as to the distressed state of the sugar cultivation, *Scott* 13434.

4. St. Kitt's :

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5. Trinidad :

Improvement has taken place in the cultivation of sugar since the emancipation of the slaves, but not much in the manufacture, *Marryat* 10473-10475.

6. St. Vincent :

There is no doubt that further improvements might be carried out in the sugar cultivation in St. Vincent, *Wolley* 11426—But not perhaps so much as in other islands, St. Vincent being both hilly and rocky, *ib.* 11426, 11427.

III. In Cuba :

General system of cultivation of sugar in Cuba, *Harbottle* 15324—The increase of sugar cultivation in Cuba within the last four or five years has been the result principally of the abandonment of the coffee estates, *ib.* 15713-15716.

IV. In India :

1. Generally :

Particulars in detail relative to the cultivation of sugar in the East Indies, and in the Province Wellesley (Straits of Malacca), *Wray* 336 *et seq.*—It is probable that a considerable quantity of the sugar which is at present in India may come here at the present prices, *Kemshead* 1018-1021. 1026, 1027—But it is absurd to suppose that the same

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CULTIVATION OF SUGAR—continued.

IV. In India—continued.

1. Generally—continued.

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2. Bengal:

The cultivation of the cane by the natives is a very simple affair, yet it entails on them a considerable deal of trouble, *Wray* 352—Detail of the process in elucidation of this, *ib.*—The quantity of land cultivated by the natives varies very much; it is sometimes not more than the twentieth part of an acre, and seldom more than three or four acres; the average may be about half an acre, *ib.* 354-358—The inferior quality of the cane planted by the natives, and their primitive and dirty mode of manufacture, render the cultivation of the cane far from lucrative, *ib.* 359-364.

3. Tirhoot:

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In Scotland considerably more malt is used than in England, 8654.—This may possibly press more heavily upon the Scotch than upon the English distiller, 8659.—Evidence showing that the necessity which the English distiller is under of sending his spirit to the rectifier constitutes a part of the difference between the case of the English and of the Scotch distiller; how far this applies to the colonial distiller, 8660-8676.—Grounds upon which the distillers for a very long period resisted the admission of rum to rectification, 8673-8676.—The English distillers never professed to be satisfied with a 1 s. 6 d. duty, 8680-8690.—They never considered it to be a fair protecting or differential duty during the existence of the corn laws, 8687.

Return of the amount of British spirits and rum brought into consumption in the year 1821, and in the year 1845; 8691-8693.—Even if it should appear from this return that rum had increased only six per cent., while British spirit has increased 117 per cent., it is no evidence that the differential taxation has not been unavailing as far as regards protection to the English distiller, 8694-8708.—The English distiller is not allowed to make the best use of his produce, and to make it into a palatable spirit, which the colonial distiller is allowed to do, and by means of which he can find a market all over the world, 8694-8708. 8731-8736.

The colonial distiller, with the exception of very trifling restrictions, is enabled to make his spirits in any way he pleases, and as he pleases, 8709.—If the power of distilling from molasses were given to the English distillers, they would still claim a differential duty, on the ground of the excise restrictions, 8710-8712.—There is no doubt that the West Indies are suffering very much as regards labour, owing to the alteration of the laws of those colonies, but witness does not see how this is to be considered in the same light as excise restrictions imposed by law, 8713-8723.—The protecting duty ought not to be altered on this account, 8724.

The corn laws may have acted against the English distillers to the extent of 1 s., but as they claimed 2 s. previously to the repeal of those laws, they have still a claim of 1 s., and that claim they are prepared to support; this was reduced last year to 9 d., 8724.—Evidence as to the difference of opinion amongst distillers as to the bonding of British spirits, 8728-8730. 8778.—Witness does not take the 1 s. 6 d. duty to be a protecting duty at all; he looks at it as a compensating duty to put the distillers in England and the distillers in the colonies on the same footing, 8742-8745.

The principal reason why the differential duty should be permanent arises from the restrictions

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Currie, John. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

restrictions which are put upon the trade both in manufacturing and vending spirits, 8760-8762—If the restrictions were removed the differential duty ought to be taken off altogether; the distillers would have no objection to this whatever, 8761. 8775—The mere permission to bond would not put the English distiller in the same position as the colonial distiller, 8763-8765. 8776-8778—Unless he had also the privilege of paying the duty only on that quantity of spirits which goes into consumption after it had passed the hands of the rectifier, 8764—Anything of this kind would be extremely hazardous to the revenue, 8766-8778.

Opinion that a very large export trade of British spirits is missed at the present time by this country, 8779-8786—The colonial distiller has the exclusive supply of spirits to the British navy, 8787-8793—If restrictions be taken off to the amount at which witness places them, any claim to compensation to that amount ceases, but witness cannot agree that because two or three items are taken off, the whole differential duty is on that account to cease, 8794-8797—The object of the Act of 1825 was to assimilate the laws as regards the Scotch and Irish, and the English distilleries, 8798-8800—Witness does not complain of the excise restrictions, they are absolutely necessary for the collection of the high duty of 7s. 6d. per gallon; he only complains of them as compared with the colonial distiller, who is entirely free from them, 8803-8811.

Currie, Mr. Witness considers there must be some misunderstanding in the statement made by Mr. Currie, that the restrictions of the excise oblige him to put his furnaces out of blast 585 times in the course of the year, involving great loss of labour and waste of fuel, *Wood* 15093-15106.

Customs Duties (India). The customs duties are a very small amount of the revenues of India, *Crooke* 233-239.

Cutting the Crops. See *Continuous Labour*, I. 3.

"Cygnet" Cruiser. From 1844 till 1846 witness was attached to the "Cygnet" cruiser, in the Bight of Benin, *M'Crae* 13229-13232—During witness's servitude she detained 18 slavers, but 14 only were condemned; only two of these had slaves on board, *ib.* 13233-13235.

D.

Dacca Sugar Company. Unsuccessful attempt made by this company to cultivate sugar in Tirhoot, *Bagshaw* 281—See also *Tirhoot*:

Danish Colonies. Reference to the declaration of the Danish government relative to the emancipation of the slaves in their colonies, *Kemshead* 1192-1196—The best of the sugars produced in the Danish islands are sent to the United States; a large quantity of their sugars has gone to Hamburgh and Copenhagen, *Shaw* 11582—Their sugars enjoy a small protection in the Danish market, *ib.* 11583, 11584.

See also *Cost of Production*, III. 3.

Date Sugar. The increase in the manufacture of date sugar in Calcutta is going on much more rapidly than the increase in cane sugar, *Hardman* 690—Mode of cultivation of the date, *ib.* 691-693—Evidence as to the production of sugar from the date, *Alexander* 1973-1976.

Deccan. Statement of the cost of, and return on the cultivation of sugar in the Deccan in the year 1825, giving every detail of expense, *Sykes* 641-649.

Demerara. The soil and climate of Demerara are as well adapted for the cultivation of the cane as those of any country in the world, *Loxdale* 9461-9464—Great extent to which both cotton and coffee estates in Demerara have been converted into sugar estates, *ib.* 9695-9699—Way in which witness's estates in the island of Demerara are managed; mode in which the supplies are sent out and paid for, *Higgins* 10183-10189.

There has been a great change in the social condition of this colony ever since Mr. Canning's resolutions were promulgated there in 1823, *Ranken* 12338—Nature of the evils which resulted from the promulgation of those resolutions, *ib.*—The compulsory Manumission Bill passed in 1829 had also a prejudicial effect, *ib.*—The next evil step was the nine-hours Labour Bill in 1831, which deprived the planter of one-seventh part of the labour he considered himself entitled to, without compensation, *ib.*—Then there was the great measure of emancipation which came into force in August 1834, *ib.* 12338, 12339—The prices of produce happened to rise about that time, and were maintained during the period of apprenticeship, *ib.* 12339—The remedy witness has to suggest on behalf of the colony is protection, *ib.* 12408 *et seq.*—List of the estates and abandoned estates in Demerara, the whole or parts of which have been purchased by agricultural labourers, and upon which villages or hamlets have been or are being established;

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established; together with a statement of the actual or computed population of each, and of the extents of the lands and numbers of plots purchased, and the respective tenures by which they are held; showing also the relative positions of the contiguous places of worship, *Rep. iv. App. 177-179*—Tabular statement of the prices of provisions, lumber, &c. in Demerara, during the years 1829 to 1840 inclusive, *ib.* 181.

See also *Railways*.

Denman, Hon. Captain, R.N. Is well acquainted with the coast of Africa; has been upwards of three years upon the coast at three different periods, 1611, 1612—Some free labourers might be obtained from the British colony of Sierra Leone, and a limited number from the Kroo coast, 1613-1615—The Kroomen are mixed with a people called Fishmen; they were originally the same but are not so now, 1614—The Fishmen would not do as free labourers; they live on the water and are indisposed to agricultural labour, 1614. 1616. 1637, 1638—The supply of Kroomen would be very limited; there is no doubt that they are a free people, 1614, 1615. 1617—Mode in which their services are obtained, 1618-1620—There are no other parts of the coast of Africa that witness is aware of from which free labourers could be obtained, 1621.

The only mode by which we could obtain any number of free labourers would be by purchasing them, and entering into the slave trade, 1622—Great difficulties in the way of getting the Kroomen or liberated Africans to settle permanently in the West Indies, 1623. 1625-1636. 1677-1682—If West India vessels were to go to Africa to purchase labourers, with a greater equipment with regard to water than was necessary for the ship's crew, they would under the existing treaties be liable to seizure, 1624—Reasons why it would not do to introduce negroes into the West Indies in any large numbers at once, 1625.

Hitherto no slaves have ever been shipped from the Kroo coast, 1639—Reference to the fact of the slave trade having broken out on a part of the coast near witness's station, between the Kroo coast and Cape Palmas, where the slave trade had not existed before for 15 or 16 years, *ib.*—This may be attributed to proper principles not having been acted upon by the squadron on the coast, and the effect of the law of 1846; 1640—The only plan to put a stop to the slave trade is to block up the points of exportation unremittingly, not going in chase, 1641. 1650-1658—This, followed up by the destruction of the barracoons, by treaty with the native chiefs, would entirely eradicate the trade, 1642-1644. 1653-1658.

Memorandum drawn up by witness in 1844 on the suppression of the slave trade; the principles suggested therein were adopted by Her Majesty's Government, 1644, 1645—Witness does not consider that any large number of the people at Sierra Leone would be induced to go to the West Indies; they are too well off, 1647, 1648. 1677-1682—The only remedy that witness would recommend for the depressed state of our West Indian colonies would be the abolition of the slave trade, 1649—This is perfectly practicable; detail of witness's plan for carrying it out, 1650-1658—Witness contemplates a blockade followed up by the destruction of the barracoons, under the slave treaties, 1653—How far the native chiefs are ready to enter into these treaties, and reliance which may be placed on their carrying them out, 1654-1658.

Though it might be a temporary loss to the native chiefs, the suppression of the slave trade would be the greatest possible benefit eventually to all classes in Africa, 1658—On those parts of the coast where the slave trade has been checked legitimate trade has sprung up, 1659-1664—Instance of the coast near the River Bonny, where a great trade in palm oil has sprung up, 1662—The present force on the coast is amply sufficient to carry out witness's plan, 1665-1672. 1674-1676—The same force might be maintained at a much smaller expense; the steamers are too large and their speed is not sufficient; number of steamers on the coast, 1667, 1668.

Under the impression that it was more healthy, the squadron has been moved further from the coast, 1672—The present increase of the slave trade may be attributed partly to this cause, 1673—And also partly to the equalization of the sugar duties by the Act of 1846; 1673. 1691-1693—Unless this Act be repealed the effect must be to ruin our colonies in the West Indies, 1673. 1684—There is no hope of any great emigration from the heart of Africa to the West Indies, 1683-1686—The only hope for the West Indians is the restoration of the differential duties until the abolition of the slave trade is effected, 1684.

Further expression of the opinion that the slave trade may be easily put down for the present, and annihilated in the long run, 1687-1690. 1695-1697—The destruction of the factories is the great thing necessary for the total suppression of the trade, 1677—Difficulties in the way of our making treaties with Brazil for its suppression; the feeling of the people is entirely in favour of the trade, 1698-1705—Great difficulties in the way of our blockading the coast of Brazil, 1701-1705—There are various circumstances which point to the coast of Africa as the proper place for such proceedings, 1701. 1705.

Dennison, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been 25 years in Java; practised between three and four years as a medical man; has been for about 20 years engaged in the cultivation of sugar, 4670-4672—Nature of the labour in Java, 4673—The government took upon themselves to plant the sugar cane, making contracts with the natives, *ib.*—Private individuals also cultivate it on their own account, and pay their labourers from three to six and 10 guilders a month, *ib.*—The labourers employed by the government are paid by the manufacturers of the sugar, 4674—Extract from Sir Stamford Raffles's work on Java, describing the nature of the cultivation in Java, and also detailing the present state of Java, 4674-4684.

[Second Examination.] Further evidence as to the amount paid to the natives for the cultivation of the sugar, 4685-4687—Formerly the natives used to deliver the canes at the mill; they have now nothing more to do with it except the planting of the sugar, 4687-4690—Other charges which fall upon the manufacturer before he ships his sugar, 4688—It is not the usual practice to ratoon the canes; some are ratooned, 4691-4692—Average yield of the cane, 4697—A separate arrangement is made with the natives for carrying the cane to the mill, 4697-4708.

Detail of the cost of the manufacture of sugar; price at which it can be delivered in this country, and price which it will at present fetch in England, 4709-4737. 4821-4833—Extent to which the cultivation of sugar in Java has been increased; extent to which they have lately done away with the cultivation of indigo, 4738—Mode in which labour is enforced in Java, 4739-4755—There is not a shadow of slavery existing in Java; it is really free labour; way in which the change has been effected, 4756-4759—The sort of obligation the natives are under to maintain the cultivation of sugar is not considered by them as a hardship, 4760-4763—There are still domestic slaves in the island, 4764-4768—But the slave trade is entirely abolished; there is very little secret slave trade, 4769-4771.

Principal parts of the island of Java where the sugars are grown, 4772-4782—Average rate of wages in the sugar-producing parts of the island; average quantity of labour performed; value of the rations given, 4783-4803—Reasons why witness anticipates a rise in the pay of labourers in Java, 4804—Java sugar will not come to England, as it fetches a much higher price in Java, 4804-4811—There is no difference in the terms upon which Brazilian and Javan sugars are admitted into Holland, 4812-4815—Further reasons for anticipating that there will be a rise in the price of labour in Java, 4816, 4817—This will naturally produce an increase in the cost of producing sugar, 4818-4820.

Dhobah Sugar Company. Unsuccessful attempt made by this company to cultivate sugar in Tirhoot; large loss sustained in consequence, *Bagshaw* 281. 306-311—The capital of the company is 200,000 *l.*, in shares of 100 *l.*, the whole of which has been called and nearly all paid up, *Kemshead* 958-960—The company commenced paying dividends in 1838 and 1839; large dividend paid in 1840, *ib.* 961-970. 1086, 1087—In the year 1841 the company made no profit; the price of the raw material was high in India, and the price of sugar was low in England, *ib.* 971-973—The large profit in 1840 arose from the price being very high, nearly three times what it is at the present period, *ib.* 973.

Statement of the average prices at which the company sold their sugars in each year from 1840 to 1845, showing the profit or loss of the company in each of those years, *Kemshead* 974-986—In the last half of the year the company began to feel the competition with slave-grown sugar; loss sustained by the company of between 40,000 *l.* and 50,000 *l.* in that year, *ib.* 988—For 1847 they estimate their loss at about 70,000 *l.*, *ib.* 988-991. 993—The company have suspended operations for a time, finding it impossible to compete with slave-grown sugar, *ib.* 992—If the company had stopped working at the end of 1845 they would have been gainers of about 84,000 *l.*, *ib.* 993-997.

Evidence showing that the plant, &c. of the company, which cost them 130,000 *l.*, would not fetch more than 40,000 *l.*; the machinery is of the best description; it is the largest sugar manufactory in the world, *Kemshead* 997-1009—At the end of the year 1845 the Dhobah Sugar Company had an extent of business to nearly 200,000 *l.*, *ib.* 1012-1014—They were induced to enter into this extent of business from the belief that slave-grown sugar would not by any possibility be allowed to come to England after the strong feeling which had been expressed against it, and more particularly by Sir Robert Peel, *ib.* 1014-1017. 1236, 1237—The company did not sustain any loss from the ruin manufacture; the whole of their losses were upon the sugar, *ib.* 1073-1077.

From the great manifestation of feeling in this country against slavery, the company did not for a moment suppose they would come into competition with slave-grown sugar, *Kemshead* 1079-1084—Witness attributes the losses of the Dhobah Company entirely to the introduction of slave-grown sugar, *ib.* 1096-1121. 1123—Salaries paid to the clerks of the Dhobah Company, *ib.* 1214—Further evidence to show that the losses sustained by the Dhobah Company may be attributed to the introduction of slave-grown sugar into this country, *ib.* 1217-1231.—See also *Freights. Tirhoot.*

Dickon,

Dickon, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Went out to Jamaica some years ago to take charge of some properties that were about to be bought there by a company in this country; was in Jamaica a little more than a year, and was before that a farmer in Lincolnshire, 6428-6436—The company only bought one estate, and they rented another; the whole extent of acres of the purchased estate was about 2,500, but there were not more than 200 to 250 acres under cane cultivation, 6437, 6438—Witness went out in 1845 at first, and returned and went out again in 1846; 6439—The intention was, that he should carry out with him all the agricultural improvements known in England, 6440—Capital of the company, 6441-6448—Result of the cultivation of the estates, as regards the profit or loss of the crops; witness had charge of the property for only one year; cost of the cultivation, exclusive of all labour and supplies from England; produce of the estate, 6449-6459. 6471-6478—Sum paid for the estate, 6460, 6461—Quantity of the land fit for sugar cultivation, 6462-6468—Rent paid for the estate that was rented, 6469, 6470.

As regards the cultivation of sugar, the land should be prepared and cleaned for a longer time before it is used; this might be done by the plough, 6479, 6480. 6531-6533—The sugar made on the estate was of good quality, 6481—Probable yield in 1847; 6483-6486—Insufficiency of the cattle on the estate to work the implements taken out; further outlay which the efficient use of them would have involved, 6486-6495. 6560-6563. 6757-6760—Rate of wages paid; shortness of the day's labour performed; objection of the negroes to task-work; want of continuous labour; inconvenience of this, as the labour cannot be depended upon when most wanted, 6496-6513—Higher wages will not tempt them, 6514, 6515—They are independent by reason of having their own provision grounds, and provisions to sell at a high price, 6516, 6517—The means that witness would suggest for making these labourers work more continuously would be by the planters growing provisions, 6518-6530. 6535-6541. 6761-6770. 6837-6849.

The labourer in Jamaica can live twice as well on 2s. 6d. as the labourer in this country; the English labourer does more than twice the work of the black in Jamaica for the same money, and their labour can be depended upon, 6534-6536. 6542-6549—Impracticability of instituting central factories for grinding the canes, 6550-6553. 6565—Great improvements might be made by drainage, 6554-6557—No good is to be done by substituting the spade for the plough; nothing is better than the plough, where it can be used, 6558, 6559. 6563, 6564—Witness is no advocate either for tramways or railroads on each individual estate, 6566-6572—Coolie labourers will not do at all; they are very poor labourers, particularly the Madras people; opinion that the Africans, from what witness has seen of them, would be very desirable labourers to have, 6573-6589—At present prices Jamaica does not hold out much prospect of profitable cultivation, 6590 *et seq.*—There are some of the sugar estates that will do very well, but with present prices the breeding pens are the best estates to cultivate, 6591-6595.

If half the estates were to go out of cultivation, the other estates would not get labour cheaper; the negroes would prefer squatting and living upon their provision grounds to working, 6596-6615—How far the company with which witness is connected are still going on with the cultivation, 6616-6622—The first requirement in Jamaica is cheaper and more continuous labour, 6623, 6624—Difficulty of raising capital in Jamaica, 6625—Evidence in detail as to the mode in which the cultivation of the estate belonging to the company was carried on after witness arrived there; they had no means of carrying out the intended improvements, 6626-6711. 6757-6760—No attempts were made at improvement in the manufacture of the sugar, 6712, 6713—With sufficient labour the estate was very capable of being improved, 6714-6721.

Data of witness's calculation as to the cost at which the estate might be cultivated profitably at present prices, with a sufficiency of labour, 6722-6746—Under present circumstances, penning the cattle on the ground is the best means that can be adopted for manuring the ground, 6747-6756—Witness has personally experienced the want of labour in Jamaica at the period when it was most valuable, 6771-6775. 6821-6836—As a general rule, wages are regularly paid in Jamaica, 6776, 6777—It is a great evil that there is no control over the labour of the labourer; how far this arises from the planters not being able to give them constant employment, 6778-6787. 6790, 6791. 6813-6819—It would be desirable if, by the introduction of implements, the number of labourers required could be reduced, 6784, 6785—The manufacture and cultivation of sugar may be carried on together with advantage, 6792—Further detail as to the mode in which the company's estate was cultivated, 6795-6804—The provision grounds of the negroes are generally independent holdings, 6820-6824.

Reports, 1847-48—continued.

DIFFERENTIAL DUTIES:

1. *Spirits.*2. *Sugar.*1. *Spirits;*

There is now the same differential duty on spirits in the three parts of the kingdom, *Currie* 8628—The principal reason why the differential duty should be permanent, arises from the restrictions which are put upon the trade, both in manufacturing and vending spirits, *ib.* 8760-8762.

2. *Sugar:*

The small amount of the export of sugar from India to this country in 1834-35, may be attributed to the differential duties in this country, *Sykes* 632—Witness's house in Calcutta is at present making four different qualities of sugar, classed as A. B. C. and D., *Hardman* 732, 733—These different qualities when imported into this country are subjected to different rates of duty, at the caprice of the customs officers in a great measure, *ib.* 734, 735. 754-759—Samples produced showing the different qualities, with evidence showing the effect of the different duties on the various qualities of sugar produced in India, *ib.* 736-747—The only remedy would be a uniform duty upon sugar; sugar should be sugar, *ib.* 760-764. 766-769—This would tend to the production of a very improved quality of sugar, *ib.* 764. 769, 770—It would not give to the British manufacturer in British colonies any advantage which he does not already possess, *ib.* 765—An assimilation of the duties would advance the consumption of the finer qualities of sugar very materially, *ib.* 796-798.

The standard samples of sugar have been given to all the trade who have asked for them, *Dowding* 2899. 3003-3005—How far any difficulties have arisen in settling the rate of duty that should be paid upon particular sugars, *ib.* 2900, 2901—The standard sample has been sent to every port of the United Kingdom, *ib.* 2902—Explanation as to a plan which has been resorted to of spoiling sugars by mixing syrup with them to colour them, and get them admitted at a low rate of duty, *ib.* 2903-2905—Course pursued by the customs officers under these circumstances, *ib.*—Difference produced in the appearance of sugar between a dull and a clear day; colour is the first distinguishing element upon which the quality is calculated, *ib.* 2906, 2907. 2948-2960.

The mode in which the duty is collected is unsatisfactory, *Dowding* 2908. 2911—In this case it was stated that the sugar was charged at different rates of duty in different places, *ib.* 2909-2914. 2930-2934—The samples furnished by the Dutch government were adopted in this country; they have no difficulty in Holland in determining upon the qualities, *ib.* 2915-2918. 2975-2982—The landing surveyors decide upon the duties, and if they have any doubt it is referred to the superior officers, *ib.* 2929—Under the Act of Parliament the quantity of saccharine matter is one of, and the principal test in determining the quality of the sugar, *ib.* 2939-2947—There are no means of satisfactorily ascertaining this, *Dowding* 2939-2947—The grain and the colour are the most satisfactory tests, *ib.* 2948-2960—Way in which the custom officers take the samples, *ib.* 3006-3011—How far there is a possibility of the revenue being defrauded by parties mixing the different qualities of sugar so as to get them admitted at the lowest rate of duty, *ib.* 3017-3021.

Evidence relative to the differential duties on British plantation sugar, and as to how far inconveniences arise from the existence of these duties, *Guthrie* 4249-4266—It would be very beneficial to the planter to be allowed to send his sugar here in any stage or form that best suited his convenience; as a general question, the Government is bound to permit it, *ib.* 4267-4273—Suggestions as to the mode by which the duties might be obtained more satisfactorily under the wording of the Act than they are at the present time, *Crosley* 7758-7761—Way in which witness proposes to carry it out by Act of Parliament, so that there should be no difficulty in ascertaining the precise duty at which the sugar should come in, *ib.* 7772-7779.

Evidence in detail as to the different qualities of the sugars which come to this country, and opinions as to the differential duties which should be imposed thereon; superior quality of the Havannah sugars, *Greene* 6165-6184—How far it would be necessary to have a differential duty as between East and West India sugar, *Crosley* 7780—It is practicable to mix fine foreign sugar, which now commands the highest rate of duty, and colonial muscovado in such a manner that the officer would be unable to detect it, *Browne* 12626, 12627—And consequently the whole mixture might, to the injury of the revenue, be admitted at the lowest rate of duty charged on colonial sugar, *ib.* 12626-12629—Comparative value of beet-root sugar and muscovado sugar; existing differential duties between beet-root sugar and foreign cane sugar, *ib.* 12844-12853—As weighing upon the great question, the question of differential duties is not a point worth much consideration, *Borthwick* 13004—Letter from Mr. Crosley, dated 15 April 1848,

to

DIFFERENTIAL DUTIES—continued.2. *Sugar*—continued.

to the Chairman of the Committee on Coffee and Sugar Planting on the subject of the Acts of Parliament regulating the duties upon the importation of sugar, and drawbacks of bounty upon the exportation of refined sugar, *Rep. viii. App. 25.*

See also *Abandonment of Estates, I. Ad-valorem Duties. Beet-root Sugar. Classification Duties. Distillers, 3. Duties. Molasses. Protective Duty. Refining Sugar.*

DISTILLERS :1. *Generally.*2. *Complaints of the Distillers as to the Excise Restrictions; Answers to these Complaints.*3. *Details of the Claims of Distillers to Compensation in the way of Differential Duties.*4. *How far the English Distiller has Advantages over the Irish and Scotch Distillers.*5. *How far he has any such Advantages over the Colonial Distiller.*1. *Generally:*

Number of corn distillers in England; gross amount in gallons of British spirits manufactured in the year 1847 at these distilleries; amount of duty paid thereon, *Currie 8531, 8532*—Different processes the raw spirit has to be subjected to before it is fit for the retail spirit dealer, *ib. 8533, 8534*—It is quite ridiculous to suppose that the English distillers have a monopoly of the spirit trade owing to the excise restrictions, when they are liable to competition from 300 or 400 distillers in Scotland and Ireland, *ib. 8622-8625. 8632-8648*—Witness does not concur in the evidence given by Mr. Betts, that from the monopoly of the distillers a supply of spirits cannot always be got by the rectifier, *Nicholson 16227, 16228. 16234.*

2. *Complaints of the Distillers as to the Excise Restrictions; Answers to these Complaints:*

The Act of the 6 Geo. 4 was passed with a view to preventing the possibility of any evasion of duty; it was solely for the protection of the excise, and not at all for the benefit of the distiller, *Currie 8548-8551*—Statement of the excise restrictions and impediments to the manufacture which are imposed upon the distiller, with evidence to show the impracticability of carrying out improvements under these restrictions, *ib. 8552-8554. 8556-8560*—Estimated loss from having to put out the fires, the distillers not being allowed to distil till they have finished their brewing period, *ib. 8592-8601*—Loss arising from the provision in the Act as to distilling in alternate periods, the brewing process being obliged to be completed before they begin distilling; way in which this causes a waste of fuel, and also a waste of time, *ib. 8574-8576. 8580-8583. 8591-8601*—There is also another, most material clause with respect to the yeast; manner in which the restrictions in this matter causes a loss to the distiller, *ib. 8576-8580*—Comparative statement designed to show the practical effect of the present excise regulations in the grain distilleries of England, *Currie's En. Rep. iii. p. 311.*

One of the grievances the distillers complain of is the non-permission to put their spirits in bond, and pay the duty upon the quantity actually going into consumption, *Gray 9407, 9411, 9412*—This is not, however, the greatest grievance, the worst grievance is the being fettered in their operations, and prevented making improvements, more particularly now, when vegetable chemistry is making such progress, *ib. 9407, 9408*—In witness's opinion the present restrictions do not in any way hinder the distillers from getting nearly all the extract from the grain, or from carrying the fermentation to the lowest point possible, *Wood 14933*—Conclusion to which witness has come as to what really is the amount of charge to which the English distiller is subjected in consequence of the excise restrictions; data upon which he forms his calculation, *ib. 14940-14949*—The result of these calculations is, that 1 *d.* a gallon is the utmost amount that can be made out as the value or cost to a distiller of the excise restrictions, although it has been calculated by the distillers at 3 *d.*, *ib. 14949*—There is every disposition on the part of the excise to meet the reasonable wishes of the distillers, *ib. 14963.*

3. *Details of the Claims of Distillers to Compensation in the way of Differential Duties:*

The differential duty payable in 1825 between the English corn spirits and the colonial spirits was 1 *s.* 6 *d.*; reasons why the duty was fixed at this amount, *Currie 8539-8544*—This duty was reduced from 1 *s.* 6 *d.* to 1 *s.* in 1846, and again in 1847 to 9 *d.*, *ib. 8545*—The distillers considered this to be 3 *d.* or more a gallon below the fair compensation to which they are entitled for the restrictions and burdens of the excise, *ib. 8546, 8547*—If the various excise restrictions do amount to what the distillers say they

*DISTILLERS—continued.***3. Details of the Claims, &c.—continued.**

amount to, they are entitled to compensation to that amount, *Currie* 8574—According to witness's calculation, he makes out that 1 s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. is the fair charge to be laid against the various restrictions of the excise; data upon which witness forms this calculation, with detail of the various items on which the loss accrues, and amount of loss on each item, *ib.* 8605-8621—In making the statements witness has done, he has confined himself strictly to the excise restrictions, and has kept out of view all the indirect taxation to which the English distillers are subject; way in which this affects the English distillers, *ib.* 8636.

The English distillers never profess to be satisfied with a 1 s. 6 d. duty, *Currie* 8680-8690—They never considered it to be a fair protecting or differential duty during the existence of the corn laws, *ib.* 8687—The corn laws may have acted against the English distiller to the extent of 1 s., but as they claimed 2 s. previously to the repeal of those laws, they have still a claim of 1 s., and that claim they are prepared to support; this was reduced last year to 9 d., *ib.* 8724—If the restrictions were removed, the differential duty ought to be taken off altogether; the distillers would have no objection to this whatever, *ib.* 8761. 8775—Statement in detail of the reasons why witness considers the present differential duty of 9 d. is not a sufficient protection, he merely regards it as a countervailing duty; he considers that the colonial distiller has actually a protection of 7 d. a gallon against the Scotch distiller, *Gray* 9376-9399—Witness has had many communications and representations submitted to him from time to time by the principal distillers, *Wood* 14931—Statement in detail of some of these communications, *ib.* 14932 *et seq.*—Reference to a deputation of distillers who waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the time of witness's predecessor; names of the distillers of whom this deputation consisted, *ib.* 14932—At that time the deputation laid great stress upon the corn laws, and not upon the excise restrictions, *ib.*—They considered that they were entitled to, and that Lord Goderich had given to them, a protection of 1 s. 6 d. as the differential duty between rum and British spirits, *ib.*

Opinion expressed by the members of the deputation as to the expense to which the English distiller was liable from the revenue regulations, and detail entered into by them as to the cost of producing a gallon of spirits in this country, *Wood* 14932—A paper was put in by them stating the grounds on which Lord Goderich had made his calculation of 1 s. 6 d., *ib.*—This settlement took place in 1825, *ib.* 14933—The distillers thought that this settlement would be disturbed by the additional duty of 1 s. on British spirits, which was passed in 1830, and which did not extend to rum, *ib.*—They therefore waited on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to complain that the arrangement which they had entered into with Lord Goderich was departed from, and they urged him to maintain that arrangement, *ib.*—Ninepence is the present discriminating duty between rum and British spirits, 6 d. being originally proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, *ib.* 14955-14957—In witness's opinion, the distillers have not made out a case for anything like 6 d.; he would say 4 d. is all they have made out a case for, *ib.* 14957-14960. 14967. 15073-15090.

4. How far the English Distiller has Advantages over the Irish and Scotch Distillers :

'How far the excise restrictions in England apply to Scotland and Ireland, *Currie* 8643-8648. 8651-8653—The only advantage which the English distiller has over the Scotch and Irish distiller is as regards the freight to which the two latter are subject, *ib.* 8644-8648—The laws in Scotland and Ireland and in England are not in all respects the same, *ib.* 8653—The object of the Act of 1825 was to assimilate the laws as regards the Scotch and Irish and the English distilleries, *ib.* 8798-8800—As regards the distillation the restrictions of the excise are very much the same in Scotland and Ireland as in England, *Gray* 9223—In respect to the manufacture of his malt the malt distiller is fettered by restrictions and regulations which do not apply to the distiller of raw grain spirits, *ib.* 9230.

Mischief which the restrictions of the excise do witness as a malt distiller, *Gray* 9231—The Scotch distiller is under the disadvantage of being subjected to a competition with the Canadian distiller, at an advantage of duty to the Canadian of 7 d. a gallon, while at the same time the Scotch distiller is prohibited from entering his spirits in bond for exportation, and receives no drawback upon the exportation of his malt spirits, *ib.* 9251-9281. 9287-9297. 9374. 9375. 9407-9420—If the malt distillers were put on a fair footing in these respects with the colonial spirits and foreign spirits they would obtain a very extensive export trade, *ib.* 9282-9286. 9298-9313. 9328—The British distiller from grain and the colonial producer of spirits enjoy pretty much about the same protection as against foreign spirits; but the malt distiller does not enjoy so much protection as the distiller from grain, *ib.* 9318-9323—The malt distiller cannot well compete with the English distiller, the quantity of malt spirit consumed in England being very small as compared with grain spirit, *ib.* 9337-9349—Reason for there being so many more distillers in Scotland than in England, *ib.* 9421, 9422.

5. How

Reports, 1847-48—continued.

DISTILLERS—continued.5. *How far he has any such Advantages over the Colonial Distiller :*

The colonial distiller is not under anything like the same restrictions that the English distillers are, *Currie* 8603—Although the West Indians may be subject to indirect taxation, this has nothing to do with the case, as they are free from the excise restrictions, *ib.* 8636—The English distiller is not allowed to make the best use of his produce, and to make it into a palatable spirit, which the colonial distiller is allowed to do, and by means of which he can find a market all over the world, *ib.* 8694-8708. 8731-8736—The English has an advantage over the West Indian distiller, but not to the same extent as over the Scotch and Irish, *ib.* 8648—The Scotch or Irish distiller pays the full English duty upon all that he loses in the passage to England, whereas the colonial distiller brings his spirit over entirely duty free, *ib.*—The colonial distiller, with the exception of very trifling restrictions, is enabled to make his spirits in any way he pleases and as he pleases, *ib.* 8709—There is no doubt that the West Indies are suffering very much as regards labour, owing to the alteration of the laws of those colonies, but witness does not see how this is to be considered in the same light as excise restrictions imposed by law, *ib.* 8713-8723—The protecting duty ought not to be altered on this account, *ib.* 8724—Witness does not complain of the excise restrictions; they are absolutely necessary for the collection of the high duty of 7 s. 10 d. per gallon; he only complains of them as compared with the colonial distiller, who is entirely free from them, *ib.* 8803-8811.

See also Bonding Spirits. Corn Laws. Distilling from Sugar. Excise Restrictions. Malt Distillers. Molasses. Penalties. Rectifying Spirits. Scotch Distillers. Spirits.

Distilling. There has been a very clever apparatus invented for distilling, which causes a great saving of fuel, and also a saving of time, *Currie* 8555—The excise has given permission for the use of this apparatus under certain restrictions; nature of these restrictions, *ib.* 8555, 8556.

Distilling from Sugar. In anticipation of sugar being extensively used in this country in distilleries, a large quantity of low quality sugar was imported from India in 1847; loss to the importer in consequence, *Bagshaw* 291-297—Injustice done by Government in not allowing sugar to be used in breweries and distilleries; their having allowed it would have been a great relief to the Government, and saved the present embarrassment, *Guthrie* 4145. 4184-4205—It would have saved a great consumption of grain, *ib.* 4184-4205—It is doubtful whether the new Distilleries Bill, allowing molasses to be distilled, will be any advantage to the West Indians, *Scott* 5400-5402—If sugar were to be allowed in distilleries, it would certainly tend to increase the consumption, *ib.* 5403-5408—One remedial measure that witness would suggest for the West Indies, is that sugar and molasses should be admitted into distilleries without payment of customs' duty, *Colville* 5835.

There was a Bill passed last year to permit the use of sugar in distilleries, but the distillers were not allowed to make the best use of that sugar, as they were not allowed to mix it with corn, *Currie* 8563—They were only allowed to use it under certain restrictions; way in which they were virtually prohibited from the use of it at all, *ib.* 8563-8565. 8571 *et seq.*—How far it would be beneficial to the distiller to use sugar instead of corn must depend upon the relative price of sugar and corn, *ib.* 8564—Some of the distillers made one or two experimental brewings, by permission of the excise, in order to ascertain what the real produce of spirits from sugar was, *ib.* 8566—The result of these experiments was pretty much the same as the experiments made by the Commissioners of Excise; the distillers extracted from 11 gallons to 11½ gallons of spirit from a cwt. of sugar, *ib.* 8567—Relative prices at which corn and sugar must be in order to make it worth the while of the distiller to use sugar, *ib.*

The spirit made from the sugar is quite as pure a spirit as from grain; for certain purposes it is as fine, *Currie* 8568—It is not a spirit the rectifiers like so well, but witness does not attach much importance to that, *ib.*—If corn and sugar might be mixed it would improve the quality of the spirit immensely; the restrictions of the excise prevent this from being attempted, *ib.* 8569-8571—The practical objection to leaving the distillers to use sugar concurrently with corn, without any of these restrictions, is the difficulty of ascertaining the produce, *ib.* 8573—Witness believes these restrictions to be absolutely necessary for the collection of the duty, *ib.* 8574—If sugar comes into general use in breweries and distilleries we shall lose the malt tax altogether, *Browne* 12840-12843—There are restrictions as to the materials used by distillers, but on giving the notices required by the Act the distiller may carry on all his processes in any way he considers most beneficial, *Wood* 14933—The objections to the provisions under which the brewing from sugar and molasses was to be adopted are obviated as far as possible in the Bill under consideration, *ib.* 14963.

See also Consumption of Sugar. Molasses. Treacle.

DISTRESS :**I. In the West India Colonies generally.****II. In particular Colonies :**

1. Antigua.

2. Barbados.

3. Demerara.

4. Jamaica.

5. Trinidad.

I. In the West India Colonies generally :

Opinion of the Committee that great distress undoubtedly prevails amongst all who are interested in the production of sugar in the British colonies, *Rep.* viii. p. 3—That this distress has partially existed for several years, and that although this distress has been much more severely felt within these last 12 months, it cannot be exclusively attributed to causes of only recent operation, *ib.*—Resolution agreed to by the Committee that is their opinion that the greatest necessity exists for an immediate application of relief, *ib.* 4—The colonists of the Mauritius having the full expectation of seeing a reimbursement, or at any rate a return for their capital, and then to find their hopes so completely blighted is the greatest calamity that could possibly befall a commercial community, *Chapman* 3480—Extracts from letters lately received by witness, showing the distressed state of the planters in Berbice, Trinidad, Grenada, and Jamaica, *Innes* 13381—Statement submitted by witness to Earl Grey, 10 November 1847, on the distress existing in the West Indies, *ib.* 13412—How far the present West India distress is attributable to the admission of foreign sugar to this market, *Pickwood* 13767, 13768—One of the causes of the present distress has been the absence of all exertion on the part of the colonial legislatures to stimulate labour at the time of the apprenticeship, *ib.* 13770-13773—The present state of everybody and everything in the West Indian colonies is that of distress, *Hawes* 16541.

II. In particular Colonies :**1. Antigua :**

Opinion that things are worse now than they were, as described by Mr. Anthony Brown, agent in Antigua, in 1831, *Tollemache* 8048-8061.

2. Barbados :

The distress existing in Barbados is mainly attributable to the mismanagement and failure of the bank there, *Shaw* 11732-11734.

3. Demerara :

The present distress in Demerara is greater than that of 1832, although at that time the estates were paying only 2½ per cent. on the capital invested, *Lordale* 9705, 9706.

4. Jamaica :

The present distress in Jamaica is incalculably more intense than it was in 1830, *Geddes* 9072-9077—West Indian property survived the tremendous distress to which it was exposed in 1830 at about one-fifth of its previous value, *ib.* 9078—Witness attributes the distress now existing in Jamaica exclusively to the mislegislation of the mother country, beginning in 1765 and being consummated in 1846, *Borthwick* 12988—Copy of a despatch from Governor Sir C. E. Grey, dated 20 November 1847, transmitting a memorial from planters, &c. to the Queen in Council, praying relief under the present distressed state of the West India interests, *Rep.* iii, *App.* 370—Despatch from Earl Grey to Governor Grey, dated 10 January 1848, acknowledging the receipt of the preceding despatch, and stating that Her Majesty has been pleased graciously to receive the memorial, 371—Despatch from Governor the Right Hon. Sir C. E. Grey to Earl Grey, dated 22 December 1847, transmitting further memorial from proprietors and lessees of sugar estates on the subject of the prevailing distress, *ib.* 372—Despatch from Earl Grey in reply, dated 12 February 1848, regretting the existence of the distress described by the memorialists, but believes them mistaken in the causes to which they attribute it, and that they take too gloomy a view of their future prospects, *ib.* 373—Despatch from Governor Grey, dated 7 February 1848, transmitting a memorial from the House of Assembly to the Queen on the distressed state of the planting interests, and suggesting measures of relief, *ib.* 374.

5. Trinidad :

There is very great distress at the present time in Trinidad; at the present prices the cultivation of sugar cannot go on, *Marryat* 10374, 10375—Evidence to show that the distress in Trinidad is greater than it has been at any former period, *ib.* 10452-10457.

See also *Absenteeism*, I. II.*Free Trade.**Monetary Crisis.**Prices* II.*Relief.* *Slave-grown Sugar.**West India Colonies.**Dominica.*

Reports, 1847-48—continued.

Dominica. Copies of all laws and ordinances now in force in Dominica for the suppression of vagrancy, *Rep.* vi. *App.* 163—Return of the amount derived from all taxes, rates and dues, public and parochial, including the amount expended towards the maintenance of schools and various church establishments, for the years 1823, 1834, 1838, and 1846, *Rep.* viii. *App.* 39.

Dowding, Charles. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Surveyor-general of Customs, 2898—The standard samples of sugar have been given to all the trade who have asked for them, 2899, 3003-3005—How far any difficulties have arisen in settling the rate of duty that should be paid upon particular sugars, 2900, 2901—The standard sample has been sent to every part of the United Kingdom, 2902—Explanation as to a plan which has been resorted to of spoiling sugars by mixing syrup with them to colour them, and to get them admitted at a low rate of duty; course pursued by the Custom-house officers under these circumstances, 2903-2905—Difference produced in the appearance of sugar between a dull and a clear day; colour is the first distinguishing element upon which the quality is calculated, 2906, 2907.

The mode in which the duty is collected is unsatisfactory, 2908-2911—Particulars relative to the case cited by Mr. Hardman in reference to some sugar brought by the "Alfred," in which case it was stated that the sugar was charged at different rates of duty in different places, 2909-2914. 2930-2934—The samples furnished by the Dutch government were adopted in this country; they have no difficulty in Holland in determining upon the qualities, 2915-2918. 2975-2982—So long as a classification duty exists, the only alteration which could be made in taking those duties would be by classing the sugars as clayed and unclayed, or muscovado, 2919-2922. 2935-2938. 2983-2989—If this distinction were made much of the East India sugar would come in as clayed sugar, 2923. 2984-2986—Duties paid on Demerara sugars, 2924-2926.

The landing surveyors decide upon the duties, and if they have any doubt it is referred to the superior officers, 2929—The importers generally do not object to the plan now pursued; it is satisfactory so far as a classification of duties can give satisfaction, 2935-2938—Under the Act of Parliament the quantity of saccharine matter is one of the tests, and the principal one, in determining the quality of the sugar; there are no satisfactory means of ascertaining this, 2939-2947—The grain and the colour are the most satisfactory tests, but even as regards colour, there is a difference on a dark and on a light day, 2948-2960.

No very great inconvenience is experienced from the operation of the classification duties; the delay is the chief complaint made; the delays arise from the attempt made to charge the higher duty, and the objection of the importers to pay it, 2961-2974—Charging a uniform duty on all sugar, and allowing that sugar to be refined in bond, would be no better plan for getting rid of the present difficulties than allowing the different qualities to be at once imported at a uniform duty, 2990-3002—It is not the practice of the customs to examine every bag of sugar to ascertain the rate to be imposed; way in which they take the sample, 3006-3011.

Quantity of sugar imported in 1847 from the East Indies, the West Indies, and the Mauritius, which paid the rate of duty of "white clayed," 3012—Further evidence as to the delays arising under the existing system of classification duties, 3014-3016—How far there is a possibility of the revenue being defrauded by parties mixing the different qualities of sugar so as to get them admitted at the lowest rate of duty, 3017-3021—Cane juice is imported into this country from the East Indies; the duty is paid at the time of importation, 3022-3024. 3026—Sugar is now refined in bond for exportation, 3025.

Drainage (West India Colonies):

Generally.—Drainage, as practised in this country, is not applicable to the West Indies or any other tropical country, *Crawford* 13117—Drainage is very essential indeed in a great many districts, *Miles* 13545.

British Guiana.—Copy of despatch from Governor Light to Earl Grey, dated 3 March 1847, on the advantages derivable from the improved drainage of lands; and enclosing resolutions of the Court of Policy, with the object of obtaining aid similar to that granted to the agricultural interests of the mother country, *Rep.* iii. *App.* 340—Despatch from Earl Grey in reply, dated 14 April 1847, stating that he cannot undertake to recommend Parliament to furnish the required capital; if assistance is afforded, it must be by the local legislature, and expressing the opinion that such improvements should be left to individual exertion, *ib.* 341—Despatch from Governor Light to Earl Grey, dated 3 June 1847, on the same subject; and transmitting a petition to the House of Commons from a Combined Court, consisting of members of the Court of Policy and Financial Representatives, *ib.* 342—Despatch from Earl Grey, in reply, dated 14 July 1847, stating that Government cannot entertain the proposition, for reasons stated in despatch of 14 April, *ib.* 344.

Drainage (West India Colonies)—continued.

Jamaica.—Impracticability of the system of underdraining or tile draining in Jamaica, the only way is to have open drains, *Lord Howard de Walden* 4522-4529—Applications have been made to government by the planters for loans to drain their lands, but not to tile drain them as has been recommended, *ib.* 4530, 4531—Great advantage which would accrue from these loans, *ib.* 4530-4535. 4606—Great improvements might be made by drainage, *Dickon* 6554-6557.

See also *Loans*.

Drawback on Spirits. Reasons for the withdrawal of the system of allowing a drawback on malt spirits distilled in Scotland, *Wood* 14954. 15048.

Drawbacks on Sugar. Customs regulations respecting drawbacks upon sugar, *Rep.* viii. App. 72.

Drought. See *British Guiana*, I. *Tirhoot*.

Dummett, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Native of Barbados, and proprietor there; acts also as attorney for a great deal of property in the island, 7316, 7317—Has left Barbados about two years, 7318—The cultivation of Barbados has by no means fallen off since the emancipation; the island just now is in a perfect and high state of cultivation, 7319-7331—Difference in the expense of cultivation during apprenticeship and during slavery, 7332-7352—Barbados has been holding its own till within the last two years; the planters have been enabled to exist, practising a very rigid economy, but nothing more, 7353—Every exertion has been made by the Barbados planters in carrying out all the improvements of which a sugar estate is capable, 7354.

The state of the island stands alone in contrast with the other islands, 7354—This may be attributed to the dense population of the island, and their being greatly in advance of the other colonies in cultivation and science, 7355—There has been no slave trading to Barbados since 1795; 7356—The apprenticeship was cut short, it lasted only three years and three-quarters, 7357-7359—Material difference in the cost of production of sugar after the apprenticeship was concluded, as compared with the period of apprenticeship, 7360-7369—The great difficulty in Barbados as regards the falling off in the value of property, has been within the last two years; previously to that, property there was marketable, it is now altogether held at a nominal value, 7369-7389.

Evidence as to the rates of wages in the island of Barbados; number of days the labourers work, and number of hours per day, 7390-7405. 7409-7415—General use of the plough in the island, 7406-7408—There is no further improvement in the cultivation of Barbados of which the island is susceptible, 7409—If the present price of sugar continues, a very large portion of the island of Barbados will be thrown out of cultivation, in short, it must go to ruin the whole island, 7419-7426—Further evidence as to the depreciation of the value of sugar plantations in Barbados, 7427-7430.

Enormous increase in the cost of production of sugar in Barbados since the abolition of the apprenticeship system; cause to which this may be attributed, 7431-7435—It has been found to be cheaper to import provisions from America, in order to feed the labouring population, than to grow them in Barbados for the same purpose, 7436-7439—Reasons for forming the opinion that free labour never can compete with slavery, 7440-7443. 7521-7528—Amount of protection witness considers necessary, 7444-7447—The frequent changes in the sugar duties of late years have been prejudicial to the planting interests in Barbados, 7448-7451—Any protection to be beneficial must be permanent, 7452-7454.

The labouring population in Barbados has hitherto been very well conducted in contrast with that of the other islands, 7455—Vagrancy is not common in Barbados, 7456—There is a general good feeling between the planters and the labourers, 7457—The labourers have shown a taste for something beyond the mere necessities of life; they are a class who have wonderfully improved in their condition, and in behaviour, and everything else, 7458—It is witness's opinion that if the price of sugar continues so low as it is at present, the island will return to a state of barbarism, 7459-7464.

Further detail, showing the difference between the cost of production of sugar under the apprenticeship system, and under the free-labour system, 7465-7490—Barbados has been in a state of very great distress since 1846, since they have been placed in competition with slave-grown sugar, 7491-7496—Great improvements which have taken place in the cultivation of Barbados within the last ten or twelve years; opinion that this improvement cannot go any further, 7497-7509—Barbados is not suffering as the other islands are from want of labour; the planters there attach more importance to the price of sugar here than to the introduction of fresh labour, 7510, 7511—Witness considers that nothing short of a differential duty of 11s. per cwt. will remunerate the planter in Barbados, 7512.

A repeal of the Navigation Laws would be of no great advantage as regards freights; if such repeal reduced freights, it would raise insurances, 7512-7520. 7529-7531—Harsh operation of the classification duties against the planters, 7532-7545—Further evidence

Dummett, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

evidence as to the great increase in the cost of cultivation since the abolition of the apprenticeship system, 7556-7567. 7575-7582—Barbados could not afford to part with any of her labouring population; though the island is very densely populated, the agricultural portion of the population is by no means too great for her wants, 7583-7585.

Further evidence as to the depreciation in the value of property in Barbados, 7586-7590—Addition that has taken place in the cost of cultivation since 1832; 7593-7624. 7628-7650—Witness is quite satisfied that the planters in Barbados can never compete with the slave labour of Porto Rico, 7651-7653—The gross sum of acres under sugar cultivation in Barbados is stated to be 106,000; 7656—Population per square mile in Barbados, 7657-7662—Further reasons for forming the opinion that the cultivation of sugar in Barbados will be abandoned, if the price of sugar remains as it is just now in England; it does not, in a great many instances, come near the cost of growing it, 7663-7686.

Dutch Colonies. See *Cost of Production*, III. 4. *Java.*

Dutch East India Colonies. System and regulations for the holding of lands, directing of labour, and cultivation of sugar in the Dutch East India colonies, *Rep.* vii. *App.* 381.

Dutch Government. The Dutch government has done more for the labouring population of Java than we have done for the West India islands, *Miles* 13696-13698.

DUTIES (CUSTOMS AND EXCISE):

1. *On Coffee.*
2. *On Spirits.*
3. *On Sugar.*

1. *On Coffee:*

The admission of the coffee of Brazil in 1844, at a lower rate of duty than had previously existed, gave general satisfaction in Brazil, *Farrer* 14224—Effect of the various changes which have taken place in the coffee duties since 1823, *Christian* 14551-14571—The import duties on coffee here are too high, *ib.* 14765—Unless there is an equalization of duties on coffee, the coffee of Venezuela will be totally excluded from this market for home consumption, *Syers* 14837, 14838. 14871-14873.

2. *On Spirits:*

Objections as to the mode in which the duties are at present charged; three different modes in which they are charged, *Currie* 8583-8591—Inconveniences and loss arising to the distillers from the modes of charging the duties, *ib.* 8583-8590—If every restriction were taken off, and the English distillers were allowed to use any materials they liked, they would then be glad to see the duties equalized, *ib.* 8603, 8604—Witness does not take the 1s. 6d. duty to be a protecting duty at all; he looks at it as a compensating duty, to put the distillers in England and the distillers in the colonies on the same footing, *ib.* 8742-8745.

Equalizing the duty as between colonial rum and British spirits would place the British distiller in a very unjust and false position; it would displace home-made spirits by colonial to a very great extent, *Gray* 9324, 9325. 9329, 9330—This would be prejudicial also to the British agricultural interest, *ib.* 9326—Relative duty on foreign wine and on British malt spirits, *ib.* 9425-9428—Considerable difficulties arise at present from the difference of duties on spirits in the three parts of the United Kingdom, *Wood* 14982—Calculations respecting the equalization of the duties on British spirits, supposing the consumption to remain the same, showing the probable effect upon the revenue, *ib.* 14983—After an experience of ten years, witness has come to the conclusion that the revenue would be exposed to great risk unless the duty were charged, as it now is, at the worm's end, *ib.* 14993-15036.

One point which witness looks upon as most material is the complaint of the distillers of the United Kingdom as to the decreases they are subject to after the charge for duty is made; answer to this complaint, *Wood* 14933-14938. 14988, 14989—Memorandum delivered in showing the actual deficiencies in the stocks of distillers and rectifiers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and also in transit from one country to another, during given periods, *ib.*—Examination as to the relative duty between Scotch and Irish malt spirits and rum, *ib.* 15148-15165—The English distillers are allowed to send out their spirits as fast as they are made, and having a fortnight's credit upon the duties, *Betts* 15218—Evidence relative to the payment of the duties in Ireland and Scotland, *ib.* 15219. 15223-15230. 15253-15255—Evidence as to the decreases in Scotch and Irish spirits in their transit to England, *Browning* 16252-16255—Statement showing the amount of decrease on four puncheons of Scotch spirits imported from Scotland, *ib.* 16255.

DUTIES (CUSTOMS AND EXCISE)—continued.**3. On Sugar :**

Opinion expressed by the Committee, that the change made in the sugar duties by the Act of 1846, without any accompanying remedy for the difficulties of production by free labour in the British colonies, has precipitated the ruin of those possessions by aggravating the pressure under which they previously laboured, *Rep.* viii. p. 3.—Opinion of the Committee, that from the evidence taken by them it appears clear that the present mode of levying the duties on sugar imposes a great practical disadvantage upon many of the producers in the British colonies, *ib.* 4.—Up to the passing of the Act of 1836, equalizing the duties in East and West India sugar, very little sugar was shipped to this country from India, *Bagshaw* 280.—Statement handed in, of the shipments of sugar from 1833 to the present period, in support of this assertion, *ib.*—Large increase shown by this statement in the export to this country, and diminution in that to other countries, *ib.* 281. 329-332.—Extract of letter from the East India and China Association, addressed to Lord John Russell, on the effect of the equalization of the duties on sugar on the sugar producers of British India, and on the capital and resources of the country, *ib.* 283.—The law has been changed before the capital embarked on the faith of its continuance is repaid or remunerative, *ib.* 283, 284.—If things had gone on smoothly, sugar, equal to the best sold in this country, might have been produced at nine rupees per maund, *ib.* 285.

The equalization of the duties would get rid of the evil under which the manufacturer in India labours, *Hardman* 799, 800.—There is now a very extensive cultivation of sugar in Brazil; great increase which has taken place since Bengal has been relieved from the differential duty between East India and colonial sugar, *Tucker* 1264-1270.—How far the differential duty on sugar affected the export of that article from Madras, *Prideaux* 1349-1351.—Bombay, which still has a differential duty against its export of sugar, sends some to this country, but not a large quantity, *ib.* 1351-1355.—Material increase in the quantity of sugar brought from India upon the equalization of the duty with West India sugar, *Melville* 1383-1384.—The change in the duties has increased the cultivation of sugar in Brazil, *Cliffe* 1524-1526.

The increase of the slave trade may be attributed to the equalization of the sugar duties by the Act of 1846, *Denman* 1673. 1691-1693.—Unless this Act be repealed the effect must be to ruin our colonies in the West Indies, *ib.* 1673. 1684.—The only hope for the West Indians is, the restoration of the differential duties until the abolition of the slave trade is effected, *ib.* 1684.—Evidence relative to the classification of the duty in India on sugars exported to the North-western Provinces, *Alexander* 1944-1947.—Taking off the present protection, which will be the case when the duties are equalized, will most probably lead to the abandonment of the cultivation of sugar in Madras, *Arbuthnot* 2060-2082. 2093-2096.—The cause of the distress in Jamaica in 1830 and previously, when there was a large protection and also slave labour, was the enormous duty, which checked the consumption of sugar, *Lord Howard de Walden* 4649-4651.

The frequent changes in the sugar duties of late years have been prejudicial to the planting interests in Barbados, *Dummett* 7448-7451.—Observations with respect to the inequality of the duty upon the admission of foreign sugar and British colonial sugar into this country, *Higgins* 10150-10155.—Reducing the duty to 1*d.* a pound would afford relief to the planters, maintaining the duty on slave-grown sugar at what it is now, *Cruikshank* 10600-10602.—Difficulty of stating what alteration should be made in the duties to put them upon an equality, *ib.* 10700-10704.—The colonies complain very much that their staple produce, sugar, should be taxed at the rate of seventy-five to eighty per cent, in order to increase the revenue of Great Britain, *Shaw* 11655.—There was a general impression in Cuba in 1846, that the duties in England on foreign sugar would be lowered, *Harbottle* 15564, 15565. 15612, 15613. 15620-15622.—Schedule of Acts of Parliament regulating the duties upon the importation of sugar, and drawbacks of bounty upon the exportation of refined sugar, *Rep.* viii. *App.* 20.—Copy of despatch from Lord Normanby to Lord Palmerston, dated Paris, 11 May 1848, enclosing statement showing the duties that are levied upon sugars imported into France from French colonies, and from possessions foreign to France, in French as well as foreign vessels, *ib.* 74.

See also *Ad valorem Duties.* Beet-root Sugar. Bonding Spirits. Brazil, 2. British Manufactures. Cane Juice. Classification Duties. Coffee, I. 1; 111. Consumers. Differential Duties. Distillers. Distilling from Sugar. France. Import Duties. Malt Distillers. Prices, 11. Protective Duty. Refining Sugar. Rice. Rum. Slave-grown Sugar. Taxation. Transit Dues.

E.

East India Company. A very small quantity of Bengal or Benares sugar was imported to this country by the East India Company; it was merely taken as dead weight, *Tucker* 1286-1288.—Return of the quantity of sugar imported by the East India Company, in

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in each of the last ten years in which the East India Company imported sugar on its own account (1824-25 to 1833-34); also, an account of the cost of those sugars, and the charges on transit and shipment, *Rep.* iii. *App.* 467.

See also *Coolies*, II. 4. *Remittances from India*.

East Indies. Extract from a pamphlet published by witness in 1844, showing that the importation of manufactures from India has ceased, and the importation of sugar taken its place, *Bagshaw* 302-305—Statement of the quantity and value of sugar exported from the three presidencies to all parts of the world, distinguishing the yearly exports to the United Kingdom from 1836-37 to 1845-46, *Prideaux* 1347—Particulars relative to two parcels of sugar witness has on hand, showing that the trade has not been profitable latterly, *Alexander* 1806 *et seq.*—Previously to 1846 the sugar trade was a profitable trade for India, *ib.* 1806—Statement of the trade of India generally since the charter was renewed in 1813, showing the value of India as a trading country connected with England, *ib.* 1819, 1820. 1843. 1866-1868—Bengal, as a sugar-producing country, is not like the West Indies, where, when the sugar is made, there is no local demand for it, and it must be shipped to England, *ib.* 1820—There is not only the foreign demand in Bengal, but the internal consumption is so great that the export is but a small part of the annual production, *ib.* 1820. 1848-1853—And the outlets of India for her sugars to the nations of the north and west are so fast increasing, that she will not lose much by the cessation of her shipments to England, *ib.* 1820-1823. 1848-1853. 1896, 1897—These facts show, that if there is a cessation of the demand in the British market, still there are native markets which will prevent the price falling in India to such an amount that the merchants can afford to bring it here, *ib.* 1823.

Large increase in the importation of sugar into England from India since 1836, *Alexander* 1893—In 1836 it was about 7,000 tons; the duties were assimilated, and it has got up to 70,000 tons since, *ib.*—How far India is capable of competing with Java and other countries in the production of sugar, *ib.* 1901 *et seq.* 2003-2014—Though the import of the articles of sugar and silk from India to England is likely to fall, that of other articles is not so, *ib.* 1932-1935—Number of vessels, and tonnage, from Liverpool to the east, for each year from 1838 to 1847, *Rep.* i. *App.* 285—Sugar will never come here from India in very large quantities unless prices are very high here, *Sir G. Larpent* 4006—Reasons why there was always a differential duty against India sugar up to 1835, *ib.* 4007—Impossibility of the East Indies competing with the West Indies in the cultivation of sugar, even considering the great advantages possessed by the East Indies in the abundance of food and cheapness of labour, *ib.* 4015-4018—If our own colonies cease to produce sugar, we should have for some time to look to slave countries for our supply; but in the course of time the East Indies would increase their production, and extend their export to this country, *Colvile* 6082-6087.

See also *Advances.* *Benares Sugar.* *Bengal.* *British Manufactures.* *Calcutta-Cane Juice.* *Canes.* *Capital.* *Capitation Tax.* *Ceylon.* *Cost of Production*, III. 1. *Cotton Cultivation*, II. *Cultivation of Sugar*, IV. *Differential Duties*, 2. *Distilling from Sugar.* *Export Duties.* *Freights.* *Indigo.* *Irrigation*, II. *Labour.* *Machinery*, II. 1. *Madras.* *Mauritius*, 1. *Native Consumption of Sugar.* *Prices*, II. *Refining Sugar.* *Remittances from India.* *Revenue and Expenditure*, I. *Rum.* *Slave-grown Sugar.* *Supply of Sugar.* *Tirhoot.* *Transit Dues.*

"*Economist*" Newspaper. Evidence in refutation of a statement which has been made in the "*Economist*" newspaper, that it is the enormous increase of free-labour sugar in the east that is the cause of the distress of the West India colonies, and not the competition of slave-labour sugar, *Higgins* 9865. 9873-9881.

Education (British Guiana). Ordinance for promoting education and religious instruction throughout the colony of British Guiana, *Rep.* iv. *App.* 165, 166.

Ellis, John Utlay. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Partner in the firm of Parry & Co.; has been for about nine years resident in the Madras presidency, and is interested in the production and export of sugar, 15757-15759—Parts of the Madras presidency from which sugar is principally obtained for export, 15760, 15761—Situations of the English establishments for the export of sugar in the Madras presidency, 15762—Witness's firm have a small establishment at Cuddalore, 15763—They are in the habit of making their sugar from the Palmyra jagry; the supply of this jagry is limited to a certain extent by the want of labour; the general labour of the country is not applicable to the Palmyra jagry, 15764-15773.

Cost of the production of the sugar obtained from the Palmyra jagry; qualities of the sugars produced; prices of these sugars, 15775-15782. 15791-15795. 15802-15814. 15959-15973—Increase which has taken place in the production of sugar in Madras for exportation since 1842; 15783-15790—Very little improvement has taken place since that period in the process of manufacture, 15791-15795—Witness does not intend sending out improved machinery; at present prices it would not pay, 15796-15801

Ellis, John Utlay. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

—Total amount of sugar exported from Madras: proportion obtained from the Palmyra juice, the remainder being obtained from the cane, 15815-15817—Under this novel manufacture a considerable quantity of land has been changed from rice to sugar cultivation, 15818, 15819.

Rent of land in the Arcot province of the Madras presidency that is fit for sugar cultivation, 15820-15834—Average production of these lands, 15835-15839—Information as to the value of labour in the Madras presidency, 15840-15848. 15887-15894. 15972, 15973—Cost of producing the sugar from the cane in Madras, 15849-15859—At a fair remunerating price the production of sugar in Madras might be increased to a very considerable extent at the present cost of production, 15860-15869—There is no great room for any reduction in the cost, 15870-15873. 15895-15899.

Good roads would have the most immediate effect in reducing the cost; how far this subject is now being attended to, 15874-15879—The cultivation of sugar has been of great benefit to the presidency, 15880—It has in some places improved the condition of the ryots, 15881—Manufacture of rum in the Madras presidency, 15882-15886—If prices remain as they are, the export of sugar from Madras must diminish, 15900-15933. 15957, 15958—Evidence as to the export trade of Madras to the Mauritius in rice, mainly in connexion with the export of coolies; particulars relative to the emigration of coolies to the Mauritius, 15934-15943—Great importance of the possession of the Mauritius to this country as commanding the East India trade, 15944-15956. 15974-15976.

Emancipados (Cuba). The Spanish government does not carry out the treaty as regards the emancipados in Cuba, that is, slaves the cargoes of captured vessels, *Lord Palmerston* 11-19—Mode in which the emancipados are treated, *ib.* 11. 21—Their situation is still very bad; practice pursued of hiring them out for periods of five years, *ib.*—Return of the first employers of emancipado immigrants who arrived in Jamaica during the year ending 30 September 1847, and of the numbers assigned to each, *Rep.* iii. App. 396.—See also *Slavery*.

EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES:

I. Evidence generally as to the Emancipation of the Slaves in various Colonies; Effect thereof:

1. Cuba.
2. Jamaica.
3. St. Kitt's.
4. Mauritius.
5. Venezuela.

II. Injurious and mistaken Policy under which the Abolition Act was carried out.

I. Evidence generally as to the Emancipation of the Slaves in the various Colonies; Effect thereof:

1. Cuba:

How far the feeling exists in Cuba in favour of the emancipation of the slaves, *Shaw* 11637-11640.

2. Jamaica:

Effect of emancipation on the produce of two estates belonging to witness in the island of Jamaica, *Lord Howard de Walden*, 4425—Falling off in the number of acres under cane cultivation since that period, and also falling off in the number since the expiration of the three years of apprenticeship, *ib.* 4426-4435—Additional expenditure which has been imposed upon the colony of Jamaica since emancipation, and to assist in carrying out emancipation, *Geddes* 9024-9033. 9134, 9135.

3. St. Kitt's:

As regards the experiment of emancipation and freedom, with respect to the labourers and the trade of the island and the storekeepers, it has generally speaking, been successful, *Pickwood* 13925-13944—If the change had not been so sudden, and it had been guarded by a longer apprenticeship, there is no doubt it would have been still more successful, *ib.* 13943, 13944—One of the greatest evils, in the first instance, was the way in which the compensation money was given over to the mortgagees, *ib.* 13945-13947.

4. Mauritius:

Evidence generally as to the emancipation of the slaves in the Mauritius in 1834; compensation paid; way in which the island was defrauded of compensation for 2,000 slaves, *Hunter* 2388-2390—The Government value per head for slaves in the Mauritius, was 69*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*, *ib.* 2391—The average compensation per head upon the actual number of slaves in the island was under 31*l.*, *ib.* 2392—And although the Act of 1833.

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EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES—continued.

I. Evidence generally as to the Emancipation of the Slaves—continued.

4. Mauritius—continued.

1833 gave seven years of apprenticeship, three years of that were cut down in the Mauritius without any compensation at all, *Hunter* 2393.

5. Venezuela:

In consequence of a decree passed some 25 years ago the then existing slaves were emancipated, *Syers* 14780.

II. Injurious and mistaken Policy under which the Abolition Act was carried out:

The result of emancipation is the best proof that the measure was not well advised in its conditions, *Barkly* 10888—The result of emancipation was, till the immigration began to tell, that the relative position of master and slave was reversed, *ib.* 10890—Great evils and injustice were committed by the way in which the Abolition Act was carried into effect, *Innes* 13382; *Miles* 13614-13619; *Pickwood* 13769, 13770—The process of emancipation was much too sudden, *Pickwood* 13774—The qualmish feeling of the English public, backed by their prejudices and ignorance as to the state of the West India islands, and the condition of the slave population, so hampered every Government during the anti-slavery agitation, that they were not able to co-operate with local assemblies in placing such restraint upon the negroes as would have been really beneficial to them, *ib.* 13778-13782—This same prejudice and ignorance have influenced injuriously the introduction of fresh labourers as well as the control of the labourers existing in the islands, *ib.* 13782-13786.

The policy pursued by this country at the time of emancipation has no doubt acted prejudicially to the interests of the planters, *Hawes* 16317-16324—It has narrowed the supply of labour; and precautions were not taken at that time, which ought to have been taken, in order to insure a greater amount of industry and more continuous labour on the part of the negro population, *ib.* 16323, 16531-16540—In consequence of this the colonies are less able to compete with foreign colonies than they otherwise would have been, *ib.* 16324, 16354—There might have been many useful measures accompanying emancipation, which would have prevented a good deal of the mischief which has arisen, *ib.* 16542, 16543.

See also *Abandonment of Estates.* *Abolition of Slavery.* *Anti-Slavery Society.*
Apprenticeship. *Barbados.* *Compensation.* *Cost of Production, III.*
Immigration. *Labour.* *Liberated Africans.* *Sierra Leone.* *Slave Trade.*
Slavery. *Slaves.*

Emigration. The Scotch ought to emigrate to Jamaica, and the English people too, they would do very well in many localities; the principal causes of the mortality amongst them are intemperance and want of cleanliness, *Borthwick* 12948-12955.

See also *Immigration.*

Employment of Labourers (Jamaica). It is a great evil that there is no control over the labour of the labourer; how far this arises from the planters not being able to give them constant employment, *Dickon* 6778-6787, 6790, 6791, 6813-6819.

English Immigrants. See *European Immigrants.*

Essequibo. List of the estates and abandoned estates in Essequibo, the whole or parts of which have been purchased by agricultural labourers, and upon which villages or hamlets have been or are being established, together with a statement of the actual or computed population of each, and of the extents of the lands and numbers of plots purchased, and the respective tenures by which they are held; showing also the relative positions of the contiguous places of worship, *Rep.* iv. *App.* 180.

European Immigrants. The importation of Europeans into Jamaica for the cultivation of sugar would never answer, *Geddes* 8977-8983—English and Portuguese have been the only labourers introduced into St. Kitt's; the English would be useful labourers if they could be kept sober, and the climate would not then affect them in the manner it does now, *Pickwood* 13868-13878.—See also *Immigration*, I. 3. i. *Portuguese Immigrants.*

Excise Restrictions. If restrictions on the distillation and manufacture of spirits be taken off to the amount at which witness places them, any claim to compensation to that amount ceases; but witness cannot agree that because two or three items are taken off the whole differential duty is on that account to cease, *Currie* 8794-8797.

See also *Cost of Production*, II. *Distillers.* *Molasses.* *Rectifying Spirits.* *Rum.* *Spirits.*

Expenditure. See *Revenue and Expenditure.*

Export Duties:

India.—Objectionable nature of the export duties levied upon the products of India; *Sykes* 623—Resolution of the Court of Directors to abolish them, *ib.*—Articles which are already free, *ib.*

Export Duties—continued.

Mauritius.—Complaints have been made of the export duty on sugar from the Mauritius, *Hawes* 16261—Lord Grey has expressed his opinion that it is a duty extremely prejudicial, and one which revenue considerations alone would induce him to maintain, *ib.* 16261. 16346, 16347—Copy of despatch from Earl Grey to Sir William Gomm, dated 21 February 1848, containing a proposal for the export duties on sugars shipped, being made payable in England instead of the Mauritius, to be submitted for council's consideration, *Rep.* vii. *App.* 325—Copy of despatch from Governor Sir William Gomm to Earl Grey, dated 14 December 1847, enclosing the report of the financial committee on the alleged expediency of substituting some other tax for the export duty on sugar; a land-tax proposed, *ib.* 336—Copy of despatch from Earl Grey in reply, dated 4 April 1848, *ib.* 340—Copy of address presented to Sir W. M. Gomm, by numerous planters, merchants, proprietors and others, soliciting relief from the payment of the export duties on sugar, *Rep.* viii. *App.* 27.

West India Colonies.—Evidence relative to the export duty in the colonies, and their effect on the cost of sugar coming to this country, *Moody* 5735-5739—There is no export duty on the produce of Jamaica, *Price* 5230.—See also *East Indies*. *Rum*.

Export of Sugar.—Evidence in detail relative to the export of sugar from this country to the continent of Europe previously to the emancipation, *Scott* 5305 *et seq.*—This export lasted till Government did away with what had become a bounty upon refined sugar, *ib.* 5307-5312. 5314-5317—The extra supply since that period has not been great, *ib.* 5313—Statement of the quantity of sugar re-exported from the United Kingdom distinguishing West India raw from foreign and refined, from 1807 to 1831, *Greene* 16686, 16687—Account showing the quantities of British West India sugar exported in each of the twenty years antecedent to 1834, distinguishing raw from refined sugar, *Rep.* viii. *App.* 61.—See also *Refining Sugar*.

Exports (Great Britain). See *British Manufactures*, II. *Imports and Exports*. *Mauritius*, I.

F.

Failures. See *Bankruptcies*. *Monetary Crisis*.

Fairhill Estate (St. Vincent). Return showing the return upon Fairhill estate, and showing also the profit from the estate during the years 1844, 1845, and 1846; the price of sugar averaging about 48s. per cwt., *Wolley* 11381, 11382—If prices had been as low as they now are there would have been a considerable loss in each of these years, *ib.* 11383, 11384.

Farrer, Richard. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Engaged in trade in Liverpool; has had some experience of Brazilian commerce principally in coffee; was in Brazil from May 1839 to October 1846; 14113-14116. 14118—Witness's principal occupation while in Brazil was in getting the planters to prepare and superintend the preparation of coffee for the English market, 14117—Witness went to Brazil in 1839, simply with the intention of purchasing a few cargoes of coffee to bring to England in consequence of the inadequate supply from the British colonies, and then to return, 14119—When he arrived there he found that such coffee as he wanted could not be bought, it was not prepared in the right manner; out of a crop of 80,000 tons, he could not get more than twenty tons fit for England, *ib.*

Witness then made up his mind to continue in Brazil, believing that coffee could be prepared there for the English market, 14120—Considering the prices would remain high for some years, he persuaded several planters to adopt the West India mode of preparation, *ib.*—The result was successful, and in 1845 the import into England had amounted to 4,000 tons, 14121—Coffee is by far the most material article of production in the Brazils; the larger amount of slave labour is engaged in coffee production, 14122-14126.

The coffee planters, as a body, are not satisfied with our legislation in reference to coffee, 14127, 14128—They complain that though such an immense amount of British manufactures is taken by Brazil from England, we take in return so small a quantity of their produce, 14129-14132. 14241, 14242—The production of sugar in Brazil has not been stimulated to any great extent by the Act of 1846; 14133-14138—Information relative to the cost of labour in Brazil; practice of letting slaves for hire, 14139-14164—The supply of labour in the Brazils is not over abundant, 14165.

Some of the Brazilian planters are wealthy, but the bulk of them are considerably in debt for the slaves which they have bought, 14166-14174—Average price of slaves in Brazils, 14175, 14176—Evidence generally relative to the importation of slaves into the Brazils, and as to the trading in slaves there, 14177-14190. 14234-14239. 14243, 14244—There is a general want of labour, 14191—The labour in the Brazils is almost entirely slave labour, 14192—Opinion that free labour might be advantageously employed, slave labour being so costly, 14193-14198—Evidence showing that the production

Farrer, Richard. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

production of coffee in Brazil does not, on an average, yield a profit, to its producers 14199-14212.

With their present habits and mode of management the West Indian planters cannot possibly compete with the Brazilian, 14213-14217—The interference of this country in the slave trade has had the reverse effect of extinguishing it as regards Brazil, 14218-14223—The admission of the coffee of Brazil in 1844 at a lower rate of duty than had previously existed, gave general satisfaction in Brazil, 14224—The allegation upon which slave-labour sugar was excluded, which was that coffee planting was very light labour, was not considered in Brazil as a good reason for excluding sugar, 14225-14233—So far as the Navigation Laws affect the article in which witness deals, he does not like them, 14245-14262—The revenue of Brazil is principally raised by fixed duties, 14263-14267.

Felicité Estate (Trinidad). Average crops of sugar on the *Felicité* estate, Trinidad, from 1843 to 1846, *Miles's Ev. Rep.* v. p. 239.

Female Immigrants. So far as immigration has already gone the planters in British Guiana have always been desirous to obtain as large a proportion of females as males, *Barkly* 10964, 10965. 10968—The colonists would be willing to import as many women as men from the coast of Africa, *Miles* 13547.

Female Labourers. Since emancipation nearly the whole of the female labourers have been taken off the estates in British Guiana, *Higgins* 9833.

Fishmen. The Kroomen are mixed with a people called Fishmen; they were originally the same, but are not so now, *Denman* 1614—The Fishmen would not do as free labourers; they live on the water, and are indisposed to agricultural labour, *ib.* 1614. 1616. 1637, 1638.—See also *African Immigrants*, 2. *Free Labour*, 4. *Kroomen*.

Forced Labour. Mode in which labour is enforced in Java, *Dennison* 4739-4755—There is no forced labour in the island of Ceylon now, but it is proposed to reintroduce something very like it, *Christian* 14722-14733.

See also *Contract System of Labour.* *Government Labourers* (Java). *Industrial Laws.* *Java.* *Slavery.*

Foreign Colonists. The foreign colonists have very great advantages in their manufacture of sugar by the ordinary process over the British colonists; nature of these advantages, *Moody* 5463-5468—Increased skill cannot possibly enable the British colonists to compete with the planters of foreign countries, *ib.* 5480-5486—Suggestions as to the means by which the British planter might be enabled to compete with the foreign planter, *ib.* 5508 *et seq.*; 5543-5546.

Foreign Sugar. Account of the quantity of foreign unrefined sugar entered for home consumption in the United Kingdom in the year 1847, *Rep.* ii. *App.* 76—Statement of foreign sugars taken into home consumption in each month during 1847, with their respective average values, *Rep.* viii. *App.* 5—Average prices of foreign sugar sold for home consumption in the year 1847, *ib.* 6.

See also *Competition.* *Differential Duties.* *Duties.* *Prices*, II. 1. *Protective Duty.* *Slave-grown Sugar.*

France. Account of the French duties upon sugar, *Scott* 5304—Evidence as to the manufacture of beet-root sugar, *Browne* 12797-12812—Copy of a despatch from Lord Normandy to Lord Palmerston, dated Paris, 11 May 1848, enclosing statement showing the duties that are levied upon sugars imported into France from French colonies, and from possessions foreign to France, in French as well as in foreign vessels, *Rep.* viii. *App.* 74.—See also *Beet-root Sugar.* *Bourbon, Isle of.* *Classification Duties.*

FREE LABOUR:

1. *Generally.*

2. *Impossibility of Free Labour competing with Slave Labour.*

3. *Whether the introduction of Free Labour into the Colonies would be beneficial.*

4. *Parts from which Free Labourers might be obtained; Mode in which and Extent to which this might be done.*

1. *Generally:*

Opinion of the Committee that slave emancipation was carried into effect without sufficient means having been taken for providing many of the colonies with an adequate command of free labour, *Rep.* viii. p. 3—And the rate of wages therein has consequently been very high, and the cost of production unduly enhanced, *ib.*—Total failure of the Government experiment in the Mauritius with respect to the free-labour system, *Chapman* 3561, 3562—It is a perfect farce to suppose that any British colony can thrive under such a system of free labour as the Mauritius has for some time been living under, *ib.* 3675—Under existing circumstances labour cannot be obtained from the negro in a state of freedom; immigration would be the only remedy, but this must be a work of

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*FREE LABOUR—continued.*1. *Generally—continued.*

time, *Shaw* 11563-11568—Reasons why free labour, such as is employed in Porto Rico, does not and cannot exist for some time to come in any of the British West India islands, *ib.* 11523. 11537—Statement that half the labour used in the produce of sugar in Porto Rico is free labour, although Mr. M'Gregor, Mr. M'Culloch, and Mr. Merivale state to the contrary, *ib.* 11865-11881.

2. *Impossibility of Free Labour competing with Slave Labour :*

There is nothing in the Tropics that can be cultivated by free labour; they can neither mine nor do anything else with free labour, *Cliffe* 1433—Reasons for forming the opinion that free labour never can compete with slavery, *Dummett* 7440-7443. 7521-7528—Free labour is most certainly not so efficacious as slave labour was; it is neither so continuous nor is it so much to be relied on, *Geddes* 8949, 8950—Witness is satisfied that free labour never can compete with slave labour till there is a population which will bring wages to a marketable rate, *Lordale* 9792-9796—Refutation of the statements which have been made in the House of Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mr. Wilson, on the strength of pamphlets published by Dr. Jelly and Mr. Scotland, that at the present moment free labour is cheaper than slave labour, *Higgins* 9815. 9932-9947—Reasons why witness does not call Java sugar free-labour sugar, *ib.* 10043. 10050-10072.

Doubts as to whether free labour can, in the British colonies, be ever made to compete with slave labour, *Wolley* 11428—How far free labour in Santa Cruz, under the Danish government, could compete with slave labour; freedom there is a different thing to what it is in our colonies, *ib.* 11428-11430. 11497-11499—The free labour of the English colonies cannot compete with slave labour elsewhere, *Shaw* 11561, 11562—Proportion the free labour in Porto Rico bears to the slave labour in the cultivation of sugar, *ib.* 11596-11606—In Porto Rico, when continuous labour is required, they depend on the slaves and not on the free labourers, *ib.* 11709-11728—Free labour can never compete with slave labour, *Scott* 13436-13442—Evidence to show that it is cheaper to cultivate an estate by free labour, provided it be continuous, than under the old system; different kind of expenses to which proprietors were subject during slavery, to which they are not subject now, *Pickwood* 13831-13846—Opinion that free labour might be advantageously employed in Brazil, slave labour being so costly, *Farrer* 14193-14198.

3. *Whether the introduction of Free Labour into the Colonies would be beneficial :*

The result of the importation of free labourers into Cuba has not been very favourable, *Lord Palmerston* 41—The introduction of free labour into the West India colonies to the extent they want it, would no doubt benefit them very much, *Alexander* 1969—As regards the colony of Demerara the free importation of labour might be beneficial, but witness is by no means sure that this remedy has not been delayed too long, *Higgins* 9991—Previous to 1846 exertions were made in Cuba to introduce free labour, but subsequently these exertions have been abandoned, *Miles* 13632-13641.

4. *Parts from which Free Labourers might be obtained ; Mode in which, and extent to which this might be done :*

Some free labourers might be obtained from the British colony of Sierra Leone, and a limited number from the Kroo coast, *Denman* 1613-1615—There are no other parts of the coast, that witness is aware of, from which free labourers could be obtained, *ib.* 1621—The only mode by which we could obtain any number of free labourers would be by purchasing them, and entering into the slave trade, *ib.* 1622—Witness does not consider that any large number of the people at Sierra Leone would be induced to go to the West Indies, they are too well off, *ib.* 1647, 1648. 1677-1682—There is no hope of any great emigration from the heart of Africa to the West Indies, *ib.* 1683-1686—Sources from which an adequate supply of labour might be drawn; witness's feeling is in favour of white labour, *Lord Howard de Walden* 4662-4664.

A large number of free labourers might be obtained from the Kroo coast and the Fish coast, *Matson* 7159-7165—There should be free access to the coast of Africa for labourers, *Ranken* 12475-12480—One great difficulty in the way of getting free labourers from the coast of Africa would be the unwillingness of the people themselves to go; their idea of a ship and a white man is slavery, *M'Crae* 13206-13208. 13245-13250—Witness is not aware of any other source from which free labourers could be obtained from the coast of Africa, except the Queen's Yard or the Kroo coast, *ib.* 13244, 13245—In witness's opinion, the number to be obtained from the Kroo coast would be very limited; probable number which might be obtained from Sierra Leone, *ib.* 13251-13268—Evidence relative to the objection on the part of the United States to co-operate in any project for transferring free blacks from the United States to the British colonies; probable reasons for their refusal, *Hawes* 16269, 16270. 16288-16296.

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Free Sugars (Java). The free sugars constitute the principal supply at Batavia, *St. Martin* 11930—The free sugars have gradually increased every year, *ib.* 11934-11936.

Free Trade. Evidence showing that if the course pursued by the free traders towards the Mauritius, is what they call free trade, it is not at any rate fair trade towards the planters of the colony, *Hunter* 2465-2474—In order to carry out all the principles of free trade it is not fair that restrictions on production should exist, *Guthrie* 4237—The prohibition to employ slave labour takes sugar out of the category of free trade; Mr. Deacon Hume promulgates this doctrine; and even Sir Robert Peel himself was of the same opinion, *ib.* 4238-4243—Free trade ought to be used with judgment, and not in the reckless manner in which the gentlemen of the Manchester school wish to administer it, *Higgins* 9894.

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Freights. Average freight of sugar from Calcutta to Great Britain; freight of sugar from Cuba in the spring of 1847, *Crooke* 240-250. 256-261—Rates of freight on sugar and on rum from the Straits of Malacca to England, *Wray* 472-478—The cost of the transit of the products of India to England is a serious impediment to the trade of India, *Sykes* 623—At equal rates of freight witness would prefer a Danish to an English ship for carrying sugar, *Kemshead* 1039-1046. 1071, 1072—Rate of freights from Demerara; the ruling rate is lower than from Santa Cruz, *ib.* 1047-1057—High rate of freights from Jamaica; causes to which attributable, *ib.* 1052-1055. 1058-1065. 1197-1200—A portion of the losses of the Dhobah Sugar Company in 1847 arose from the high rate of freights they had to pay, *ib.* 1154-1158—Effect of the increase of the sugar trade on the homeward and outward freights; shipment of sugars as dead weight; saltpetre and rice were the principal articles of dead weight before the sugar trade sprang up, *Alexander* 1938-1943.

How far a reduction of freights would be a boon to the planters in the Mauritius, *Hunter* 2831-2835—Difference in the rates of freight from Brazil and from the Mauritius, *Blyth* 3067-3070—Particulars relative to the freights and other mercantile charges on sugar from Antigua, *Tollemache* 7970, 7971—Evidence as to the difference in the duration of the voyage from England to Santa Cruz and back, and from England to Antigua and back, *Shand* 8212-8222—The freights from Demerara to England on the average as sugar freights are lower than from any other part of the world, *Loxdale* 9465-9474. 9478—Amount of Government freights from Batavia; freight paid by private merchants, *St. Martin* 11951, 11952.

Charges for bringing sugars from Cuba to Europe, *Harbottle* 15378-15385—Information with regard to the amount of tonnage of the respective flags which is used for the conveyance of the produce of Cuba to Europe, *ib.* 15440—Letter from William Imrie to Lord George Bentinck, dated Liverpool, 22 April 1848, containing the latest information on the subject of freight from the foreign and British colonies, and from Brazil to this country in seeking ships; and inclosing a list of freights in February and March 1848, *Rep. viii. App. 17*—Account of the number of ships in which sugar was imported into Great Britain or Ireland from the Spanish colonies, from Brazil, and from Venezuela, distinguishing British from Spanish or other foreign ships, in the year 1847, *ib.* 18.

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Fuel (Berbice). How far a reduction of wages would make it cheaper for the planters to cut wood for fuel rather than import coal at 1 l. a hogshead, *Barkly* 10784-10788.

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Ganjam District (Madras). Witness, with his partners, is interested to the extent of one-eighth in a very small sugar concern situated at Ganjam; the concern was established by Binney & Co., of which firm witness's house were the agents, *Scott* 1768, 1769—The whole capital of the company did not exceed from 16,000 l. to 18,000 l., *ib.* 1770—The concern is carried on upon the most approved European system, *ib.* 1771—There are no means of judging at present whether it will turn out profitably; so far as it has already gone the company is disposed to abandon it, *ib.* 1772—In so doing they are not at all governed by the present price of sugar, *ib.* 1773—The article itself can be produced very cheaply in the district, *ib.* 1773-1775.

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For the last year Binney & Co. have not exported their sugars at a profit; this arises probably from the great expense of the transit, *Scott* 1776-1782—The means of transit between the Ganjam district and the seaboard are the very worst in the world, *ib.*—Sugar can be produced in the district so as to compete with any part of the world, *ib.* 1783—It is only a few of the shareholders in the concern that are anxious for abandoning the concern; Messrs. Binney themselves are rather sanguine, *ib.* 1784. 1794-1800—Further evidence respecting the capital of the company; quantity of sugar exported, &c.; the thing is at present quite in its infancy, *ib.* 1788-1793. 1801.

Geddes, Alexander. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been connected with Jamaica for many years; way in which witness has been connected with it; went there in 1819 as a planter, and in 1826 came into charge of a very large property there, 8910-8912—Statement of the cost of production of sugar in Jamaica under slavery, 8912-8916—Cost of production under apprenticeship, of which there were four years, 8917-8920—It was a great misfortune that apprenticeship was ever introduced at all, managed as it was, 8920, 8921—A feeling of distrust was created between the planters and the apprentices which did not previously exist, and which was in the end, and particularly at the outset of freedom, the cause of much bickering and heartburning, 8921.

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The production has for some years past been carried on at a loss; the outlay of the planter has not been met by the gross amount of the produce, 8964—Therefore, a reduction of one-half of the present rates would not enable the planter to hold his own, *ib.*—In the present state of the sugar market, and if the British planter is to be condemned to compete with him who steals the labourer, any measure of immigration would only add to the difficulties of the colonies, 8967.

If ten years' protection were guaranteed to the planters, at the rate of 10*l.* per ton, a large immigration of labourers from Africa might be beneficial, 8968-8974—How far in this case the Jamaica planters would be willing at their own risk, at the cost of 10*l.* per head, to import as many women as men from Africa, supposing them to be imported under contracts, 8968-8974. 9017—Opinion that they would be satisfied with a shorter period of contract than five years, 8968-8970—Any objection made to the permission to go to the coast of Africa for free labourers, on the ground that it might turn to slave trading, could be easily obviated by the presence of a Government officer, 8975, 8976.

The importation of Europeans for the cultivation of sugar would never answer, 8977-8983—Causes of the abandonment of a large number of coffee plantations in Jamaica since emancipation, 8984 *et seq.*—The great cause is the low price now obtained here, owing to the introduction of slave and Ceylon coffee, 8984, 8985—Produce of coffee in Jamaica at various periods, 8988-8994—Price at which the cultivation of coffee might be continued, 8995-9000—The want of continuous labour is not so much felt in the coffee as in the sugar plantations, 9001.

Cotton cultivation and sugar cultivation cannot co-exist; witness remembers a cotton plantation in Jamaica, but it has been found by experience that the cotton cultivation always gives way before the sugar cultivation, 9004, 9005—Reasons for forming the opinion that although sugar cultivation is not profitable now, cotton is not likely to take its place, 9006-9014—Not much is to be done in the way of industrial laws in Jamaica, 9015, 9016—Difficulties in the way of curtailing the salaries of the officials in the island, as a step towards reducing the wages of the labourers, 9018, 9019.

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The repeal of the Navigation Laws would not be of the slightest importance to the West India colonies, as regards freights, 9034-9048—Evidence as to the slave trade in Cuba, and opinion that it is a violation of the existing treaties between this country and Spain, 9049-9052—Great disadvantages which have arisen from the circumstance of the planters, after emancipation took place, having been prohibited from making engagements out of Jamaica with any labourers on their estates, 9053-9059—Evil effects of the abrupt termination of the apprenticeship, 9060-9064.

No body of men that ever existed as merchants have suffered more from their connexion with any trade than West Indian merchants have done, 9065-9071—The present distress in Jamaica is incalculably more intense than it was in 1830; 9072-9077—West India property survived the tremendous distress to which it was exposed in 1830, at about one-fifth of its previous value, 9078—It is witness's solemn and deliberate conviction that if some remedial measure be not on the present occasion immediately applied, cultivation will entirely disappear from Jamaica, 9079, 9080.

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Answer to the reproach which has been made that Jamaica has not availed herself of modern improvement in the manufacture of sugar, 9135-9142—The results of the use of the vacuum pan have not shown that it is an improvement in the manufacture of sugar, *ib.*

Georgetown Port (British Guiana). Table of imports at the Port of Georgetown, British Guiana, from the year 1836 to the year 1845, both inclusive, prepared by the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana, *Loxdale's Ev. Rep.* iv, p. 68—Extract from the register of arrivals and departures of vessels at the port of Georgetown, Demerara, for the year ending 31 December 1845, *ib.* 70, 71.

German Immigrants. See *Immigration*, I. 3 i.

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Gladstone, Sir John. Particulars as to the establishment of a sugar manufactory in the neighbourhood of the Dhobah Sugar Company's works by Sir John Gladstone, *Kemshead* 1010, 1011; 1085. 1090-1095.

Glasgow Estate (Jamaica). Statement of the annual crops of sugar on the Glasgow estate, Jamaica, from 1843 to 1846, *Miles's Ev. Rep.* v. p. 235.

Goderich, Lord. See *Distillers*, 2.

Godwin Estate (St. Kitt's). Detailed statement relative to the produce and expense of a small estate in St. Kitt's, called the Godwin estate, belonging to the family of Mr. Edwin Pickwood, and which he managed, *Greene* 16606-16615—Comparative statement of the produce and expense of this estate, under witness's management, after it came into the possession of Benjamin Greene & Son, at the latter end of 1840, *ib.* 16616—The result shows that even with free labour under witness's management, when the estate fell into the hands of a non-resident proprietor, it produced more sugar at a less cost than it did during slavery under the management of Mr. Pickwood, the resident proprietor, *ib.* 16617—This was owing to the notoriously bad management of the late Mr. Pickwood, and does not at all prove that free labour is cheaper than slave labour except under such circumstances, *ib.*

Golden Grove Estate (Trinidad). Average crops of sugar on the Golden Grove estate, Trinidad, for the years 1845 and 1846, *Miles's Ev. Rep.* v. p. 240.

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Government Aid. See *Colonial Office.* *Distress.* *Immigration, II. III.* *Loans.*
Mauritius. 4. *Relief.*

Government Labourers (Java). Way in which the work done by the Government labourers is in some sort compulsory; the wages are lower than those paid by private parties; a public tariff is proclaimed; number of hours of labour; coin in which the wages are paid, *St. Martin* 11959-11963. 11966-11973—The planters and manufacturers find their own labourers; they are all free, *ib.* 11957, 11958.

Governors of Colonies. See *Salaries.*

Gower, Nephews & Co., Messrs. Statement of the losses of Messrs. Gower, Nephews & Co. on their sugar estates in the Mauritius, *Blyth* 3147-3151.

Grain Spirits. Letter and paper relative to raw grain spirits, *Rep. viii. App. 12.*

Gray, Charles. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Malt distiller, in Glasgow, 9221—Number of gallons of malt spirits consumed in the United Kingdom, in the year ending 5th January 1847, and amount of duty paid upon the spirits, including the duty on malt, 9222—As regards the distillation, the restrictions of the Excise are very much the same in Scotland and Ireland as in England, 9223—In respect to the manufacture of his malt the malt distiller is fettered by restrictions and regulations which do not apply to the distiller of raw grain spirits, 9230—Mischief which the restrictions of the Excise do witness as a malt distiller, 9231—Difficulty of estimating correctly the extent to which the different excise regulations raise the cost of malt spirits; witness would say that it is underrated at 6 *d.* a gallon, exclusive of wastage and leakages and the malt duty, 9232. 9305.

Present amount of duty on malt spirits in Scotland, including the duty on malt, on spirits consumed in Scotland, 9233-9235—Duty on these spirits if sent to Ireland, 9236—And if sent to England, 9237—Duty on rum in England; which leaves a differential duty in England against the malt distiller in Scotland of 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.*; this is also the case as regards Ireland, 9238-9241—In Scotland they have an advantage of 1 *d.* in the duty to set against those restrictions, 9242.

The disadvantage which the malt distiller is under applies not only to rum but to all spirits manufactured in the British possessions in America, 9243-9245—The Scotch distiller is under the disadvantage of being subjected to a competition with the Canadian distiller, at an advantage of duty to the Canadian of 7 *d.* a gallon; while at the same time the Scotch distiller is prohibited from entering his spirits in bond for exportation, and receives no drawback upon the exportation of his malt spirits, 9251-9281. 9287-9297. 9374. 9375. 9407-9420.

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Equalizing the duty as between colonial rum and British spirits would place the British distiller in a very unjust and false position; it would displace home-made spirits by colonial to a very great extent, 9324. 9325. 9329. 9330—This would be prejudicial also to the British agricultural interest, 9326—The British agricultural interest is placed in a very false position by the present rate of duties levied on articles the produce of the soil of this country, 9326-9328—The additional impediments upon the Scotch distiller, which do not prevail as regards the English distiller, are the regulations with respect to distillation and the regulations attending the collection of the malt duty, 9331-9336.

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Statement in detail of the reasons why witness considers the present differential duty of 9 *d.* is not a sufficient protection; he merely regards it as a countervailing duty; he considers that the colonial distiller has actually a protection of 7 *d.* a gallon against the Scotch distiller, 9376-9399—Difference between the English and Scotch cost of manufacturing spirits from malt, 9400-9406.

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is the being fettered in their operations and prevented making improvements, more particularly now when vegetable chemistry is making such progress, 9407, 9408—Opinion that allowing the bonding of spirits and paying duty for what goes into consumption would not lead to fraud or be detrimental to the revenue, 9413-9420—Reason for there being so many more distilleries in Scotland than in England, 9431, 9432—Relative duty on foreign wine and on British malt spirits, 9425-9428.

Greene, Benjamin Buck. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Merchant and shipowner, and partner in the firm of H. D. & James Blyth & Greene, 6088—Witness's house is consignee of sixteen or eighteen estates in the island of St. Kitt's; the production of these estates forming from one-fourth to one-third of the entire production of the island, 6089-6095—Personally managed estates in St. Kitt's from 1829 to 1837; 6090-6092—Cost per cwt. at which these estates have produced sugar during the last four years, and previously; present price of this sugar in London, showing the loss thereon, 6096-6102—Price at which foreign sugar has been sold in London before the Act of 1846 passed, which raised its value in the British market, 6103-6106.

Statement of the price of muscovado sugar in Cuba at the present time, 6107, 6108—Cost of producing sugar in St. Kitt's during the years of slavery; cost during the four years of apprenticeship, 6111-6117—Statement of the island expenses for cultivation and production on Nicola Town estate, St. Kitt's, for each year from 1829 to 1846, showing the items under the various heads, *Rep.* iii. p. 137—The produce, though not equal to what it was during the apprenticeship, has not upon the whole very much diminished, 6118, 6119—Extent to which machinery has been introduced, 6120-6130—The increased cost of production may be mainly attributed to the want of cheap and continuous labour, 6131—Profit and loss on the estates since 1838 to 1846; anticipated loss per ton in 1847, on account of the low price here, 6132-6140.

Statement showing the expenses under various heads, incurred upon each of ten estates, together with the produce and net proceeds thereof, the cost (after deducting the proceeds of rum and molasses) per cwt. of sugar, and the profit or loss in each case, from 1843 to 1846, *Rep.* iii. p. 140—Statement showing the totals of the ten estates for each item during each year in the foregoing return, *ib.* 142—Witness's house also receives consignments from four sugar estates in Jamaica; after the Bill of 1846 they gave up two other estates, as they had not sufficient confidence to make the necessary advances for cultivation, 6143-6145.

Statement showing the expenses of cultivation, &c. on the total of four estates, for each of the years 1843 to 1846; the produce and net proceeds thereof, the cost per cwt. of sugar (after deducting the proceeds of rum), and the profit or loss, 6146-6149—These four estates had been profitable up to 1846; they used at one time, previously to emancipation, to bring in more than 30,000 *l.* a year, and now there is a loss of 2,000 *l.* a year, 6150-6154—Without protection it is impossible that the free labour of the British colonies can compete with the slave labour and slave trading of Cuba and Brazil; the protection should not be less than 10 *s.* per cwt., 6155-6157. 6163, 6164—Unless such protection be given, a large proportion of the estates will go out of sugar cultivation, 6157-6162.

Evidence in detail as to the different qualities of the sugars which come to this country; opinions as to the differential duties which should be imposed thereon; superior quality of the Havannah sugars, 6165-6184—The greater part of the Havannah sugars are clayed; it is the want of continuous labour that prevents the West Indies from claying their sugars, and putting them on an equality with the Havannah sugars, 6165-6168. 6185, 6186—Generally speaking, a better quality of sugar was made in the West Indies during slavery than is now made, 6186, 6187—Price at which the sugar of Porto Rico is sold on the spot, 6188-6190—Statement as to the produce of Cuba, 6190-6193.

The resident proprietors in St. Kitt's do not manage their estates with the same energy or so well as the absentees do by their agents, 6194-6197—Further evidence, showing that the production of sugar in St. Kitt's was much cheaper under slavery than it is now; how far they were then able to compete with Cuba, 6198-6212—Further examination in detail as to the cost of producing sugar on the Nicola Town estate, St. Kitt's, in 1846, and as to the present value of this sugar in England, 6213-6251—The crop arriving here in 1847 has been larger than any sugar crop for many years; how far this excess of quantity has tended to reduce the price, 6252-6269.

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The resources of the island as regards improvements to the sugar plantations in the way of water mills, vacuum pans, and so on, are comparatively small, 4538-4547—The idea of central factories has been entertained, but they would not in general be practicable, 4538, 4539—Witness had heard a great deal of Mr. Price's improvements, and Lord Elgin held him forth as a pattern for Jamaica planters, 4544—On witness's arriving in the island he found that Mr. Price's estate had completely failed, and that all his schemes had fallen to the ground; his machinery was lying about, and had been for several months, 4544-4547. 4551—Difficulty of getting machinery repaired in Jamaica, 4547—The advantages to be derived from the use of the vacuum pan have been overrated, 4547-4551.

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The deficiency of labour is most particularly felt at the time of bringing the cane to the mill; and from this circumstance it is impossible to bring it all to the mill in the best possible state, 4600-4603—The re-introduction of night work, which had ceased previous to emancipation, would be a great improvement, 4604, 4605—Witness's estates are well situated with respect to shipping, 4607—The rate of day wages is the same in crop time and out of crop time, 4608—The rents of the labourers are deducted from their wages, 4609—The general complaint in the island is the not having the command of labour, especially at the planting season, 4610.

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With a large importation of labour and other changes, Jamaica might compete with Cuba, but it is doubtful whether it could do so with Brazil without protection, 4627-4632—Number of hours the people are engaged in boiling sugar in crop time; extent to which task-work is introduced, 4635-4639—The present price of sugar is inadequate to replace the cost of production upon the great majority of the estates in Jamaica; some steps should be taken by the Legislature to raise the price; average cost of the production of sugar at the present time; cost of bringing the sugar to the British market, 4640-4648. 4652-4657. 4665-4669—The cause of the distress in 1830, and previously,

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previously, which nearly led to the abandonment of the estates in Jamaica, when there was a large protection and also slave labour, was the enormous duty which checked the consumption of sugar, 4649-4651.

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Hunter, Hugh. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Co-proprietor of estates in the Mauritius; resided in the island from 1828 to 1845; was a member of the Legislative Council from 1840 to 1845; 2358-2360—The crop on witness's estate for the year 1846 produced 4,500 tons of sugar; the whole of it was exported to Great Britain, 2361, 2362. 2689 *et seq.*—Employed about 3,000 labourers, 2363—Witness considers his estates to be some of the very best in the island, 2364—Statement in detail showing the comparative cost of slave and coolie labour in the colony of the Mauritius, 2365-2373—The soil of the Mauritius is peculiarly favourable for the growth of the sugar cane from its being of volcanic origin, 2374, 2375. 2575—There are large stones or rocks sprinkled all through the island, which render the use of the plough almost impracticable, as well as the use of some other agricultural implements, 2376, 2377. 2701—Still the presence of these rocks and stones is considered advantageous to the land, from their sheltering it from the sun and keeping it cool and moist, 2377-2381.

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Notwithstanding all these drawbacks, trusting in the probity of Parliament, and the assertions of the leading members of both Houses, the colony made the most strenuous efforts to carry on the cultivation of sugar, 2394. *et seq.* 2412-2415—Extract from the report of a committee of council appointed to inquire into the labour and Indian immigration question in 1845, in support of this assertion, 2395—The first effect of the system of coolie immigration, so far as regards the sugar cultivation, was very successful; way in which the plan was at first carried out, 2395-2400—At that time they came under a term of engagement for five years, *ib.*—Cost of bringing these men to the Mauritius, 2395-2397—Under this system there was very little vagabondage and absenteeism; it was nothing as compared with what it is now, 2398-2401. 2412.

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The planters do not consider themselves the victims of rash or ill-founded speculation, but entirely of the bad faith of Parliament and of the country, which in 1841 had so strongly expressed itself against the introduction of slave-grown sugar, 2412-2415. 2683-2686—The planters never for one moment supposed the possibility of the Act of 1846 being passed, 2412—Reference to the failure of certain houses connected with the Mauritius since the passing of this Bill; large capital invested by them in the cultivation of sugar, 2416-2418. 2422-2429—Fall in the price of sugar from the Mauritius on the secession of the Government of Sir Robert Peel and the advent of the free traders to power, 2419-2421. 2423-2427—On the 28th December 1846, the price of sugar was

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32 s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and on 28 December 1847, it was 22 s. 2 d.; the present average price is about 23 s.; 2426, 2427.

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The island of Mauritius has suffered very materially, as has also the mother country, from the interruption of the amicable relations with the Queen of Madagascar, 2458-2464. 2613-2618—Evidence showing, that if the course pursued by the free traders towards the Mauritius is what they call free trade, it is not at any rate fair trade towards the planters of the colony, 2465-2474—How far, if the Mauritius had efficient labour, leaving out of the question slave labour, it would be prepared to compete with Cuba, Brazil, and Porto Rico, 2465-2474. 2549, 2550. 2575-2598—Over-production, with which the tropical colonists were charged by Lord Stanley in 1832 and 1833, is an evil which soon cures itself, 2475.

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Evils arising from the present form of government in the island; nature of the Legislative Council, 2517-2526—Extent to which the expenditure might be reduced consistently with the beneficial government of the colony; reduction which might be made under the head of police, 2527-2533—With proper laws there would be no difficulty in putting down vagrancy in the Mauritius, 2534-2538—Former and present rates of wages of coolies, 2539-2541—Further evidence showing the superior working of the system of the five years' engagement over the one year's engagement, 2541-2548—Grounds upon which the immigration into the Mauritius was discontinued in 1839; 2542.

Opinion that the coolies would again enter into the five years' engagement, 2543-2548—No system would compete with that of slavery, 2549, 2550. 2575-2598—Under both systems of engagement, the wages have been regularly paid in the colony, 2551-2556—Evidence relative to the stamp tax on contracts, paid by the planters, with the coolies, 2557-2565—When witness left the island, he considered the moral condition of the coolies was good, 2566-2574—In many instances money has been borrowed upon the working of the estates, the cultivation could not have been carried on without these advances, 2599-2604.

Further evidence in favour of imposing a strict vagrant law, 2605-2608—Average amount per head paid by the planters themselves on the immigration of coolies, 2609-2612—If protection be entirely taken away, nothing will enable our colonies to compete with the slave colonies, 2613-2618—So far as witness was concerned, the sugar trade of the Mauritius was profitable up to the passing of the Act of 1846, and witness would say this has been the case generally; though some estates were rendered less profitable on the stoppage of immigration in 1839; 2619-2630—The Bill of 1846 was no doubt one great cause of the failure of the large commercial houses in the Mauritius, 2626-2630.

Detail of the cost of production of sugar in the Mauritius; the price at which it can now be sold in England; and the price it ought to fetch to leave a remunerative profit, with further opinion in favour of a 10 s. differential duty, 2631-2661. 2667-2669—Extent to which, and mode in which, assistance has been lately afforded to the Mauritius by the

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Home Government, 2670-2675—Obnoxious policy of the 1*l.* tax per ton on the export of sugar from the Mauritius; purpose for which levied; want of power in the Colonial Office to remove it, 2675-2678—Reduction of expenditure, and taxation which would take place by a municipal reform, giving certain powers to a corporate body in the town, and thereby relieving the government of a vast deal of work, 2679—The reasons why the greater part of the provisions are imported into the island are, that the island will not produce rice in any quantity, and the grasses are not congenial to the life of cattle, 2680-2682. 2844.

Opinion that nothing but the restoration of protection will enable the sugar cultivators in the Mauritius to go on with the culture; the amount at which witness puts the protection is 10*l.* a ton, or a penny a pound, 2687, 2688—Detail of the expense of cultivation, and of the amount of produce of witness's estates; under present circumstances it is not his intention to go on with the cultivation, 2689-2734. 2780-2801—Extent to which witness manufactures rum on his estates; heavy excise tax thereon, 2703-2711—Further evidence as to the present price of Mauritius sugar, 2735-2748—Further evidence as to the cost of production of sugar in the Mauritius, 2749, 2750.

In extending their cultivation of sugar, the planters looked forward to the declaration of Sir Robert Peel, that there would be always a certain protection against foreign free-labour sugar, 2751-2755—Further detail of the relative cost of free and slave labour, 2756-2775. 2855-2860—Nature of the accommodation that the Colonial Office has afforded to the planters in the Mauritius; new system of currency introduced by them into the island, 2802-2830. 2847-2854—How far a reduction of freights would be a boon to the planters, 2831-2835—Any change in the vagrant laws depends on the Home Government; the Mauritius is a Crown colony, 2838-2843. 2845, 2846—Unsuccessful attempts made to cultivate other articles besides sugar in the island, 2844.

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Hyde Estate (Jamaica). Statement of the annual crops of the Hyde estate, Jamaica, from 1843 to 1846, *Miles's Ev., Rep. v. p. 234.*

Hypothecations. See *Remittances from India.*

I.

IMMIGRATION:

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2. In the West Indies generally.
3. In particular Islands:
 - i. Berbice.
 - ii. British Guiana.
 - iii. Jamaica.
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III. *Restrictions which have been placed from time to time on Immigration by Government:*

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I. *Results of Immigration, so far as it has already taken place :*

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vi. St. Vincent :

Despatch from Governor Reid to Earl Grey, dated 8 September 1847, reporting the contented and healthy condition of Portuguese immigrants in St. Vincent's; their numbers being about 2,000, *Rep.* iii. *App.* 458.

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2. Papers laid before the Committee :

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Despatch from Governor Light, dated 16th August 1847, transmitting resolutions passed by the Court of Policy for empowering the Loan Commissioners to raise funds necessary for Immigration purposes, *Rep.* iii. *App.* 432—Despatch from Earl Grey to the governor of British Guiana, dated 14 December 1847, in reply, enclosing copy of letter from Emigration Commissioners, stating the terms on which they have raised a loan of 90,000*l.*; and copy of a letter directing them to raise a further sum of 90,000*l.*, *ib.* 433—Despatch from Earl Grey to Governor Light, dated 31 January 1848, in reference to despatch of 14 December 1847, enclosing letter from the Loan Commissioners, stating their inability, under present circumstances, to raise the money for Guiana, *ib.* 440—Despatch from Earl Grey to Governor Light, dated 1 February 1848, transmitting copy of a despatch to the Governor of Jamaica, and of a letter from the Colonial Office to the Treasury, respecting the encouragement of emigration from the coast of Africa to the West Indies, *ib.* 441.

ii. As regards Grenada :

Despatch from Governor Reid to Earl Grey, dated 23 August 1847, transmitting despatch from the lieutenant-governor and memorial from the House of Assembly of Grenada, praying to be permitted to share in the advantages of African immigration, *Rep.* iii. *App.* 459—Despatch from Earl Grey in reply, dated 6 November 1847, stating that it is not intended to place Grenada on a less favourable footing than the other West India colonies, but that the experiment will be tried at first as to one or two colonies only, *ib.* 460.

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Despatch from Sir C. E. Grey, dated 23 October 1847, stating the probability of the island legislature making no further grant for the importation of coolie labourers, and recommending the suspension of African immigration for the present, *Rep.* iii. *App.* 387—Despatch from Earl Grey to Governor Sir C. E. Grey, dated 14 January 1848, in reply to despatch of 23 October 1847, stating that immigration will be suspended, and also containing remarks on the report of the immigration agent, *ib.* 408—Despatch from Governor Sir C. E. Grey, dated 22 November 1847, relative to the disposal of the funds in the hands of the Emigration Commissioners reinstituted for immigration purposes, *ib.* 409—Letter from Herman Merivale to the Land and Emigration Commissioners, dated 7 January 1848, on the same subject, and stating that no further liabilities are to be incurred on account of emigration to Jamaica, *ib.*

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Evidence as to the restrictions imposed on immigration and on the entering into contracts with the labourers, *Moody* 5703-5712—The great impediment to immigration has been the Order in Council of September 1838, which was passed simultaneously with the declaration of perfect freedom, *Barkly* 10916—If there were no interference on the part of Government, the Africans might be imported at a very cheap rate, *Miles* 13539-13544. 13677-13682—Reference to the evidence given by Mr. Barkly that he considers that the great impediment to the importation of immigrants has always been the Order in Council of 7 September 1838, which was passed simultaneously with the declaration of perfect freedom, *Hawes* 16268—Witness agrees with Mr. Barkly that the Ordinance has been an impediment ; but he has overlooked the fact that the local legislature had full power to alter or amend that order, and that such power has been formally communicated to them, *ib.* 16268, 16268*. 16297-16305—How far it would be advisable that the planters should have the power of getting immigrants for themselves, without the regulations and restrictions of the Colonial Office, *ib.* 16494-16499.

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Despatch from Earl Grey to Governor Light, dated 22 July 1847, stating the reasons for refusing sanction to any arrangement for the conveyance of African emigrants in private ships, not under charge of some person specially appointed by Government, *Rep.* iii. *App.* 415—Despatch from Governor Light to Earl Grey, dated 3 July, stating certain proceedings taken in consequence of a communication from the Land and Emigration Commissioners, restricting the emigration from Madeira, on account of the great mortality amongst the emigrants, *ib.* 416—Despatch from Governor Light, dated 14 July 1847, transmitting the acting immigration agent-general's, and health officer's, reports of the arrival of the "Senhora da Conceição," and the "Loyal," with emigrants from Madeira ; with remarks on the working of the Passengers' Act, *ib.*—Despatch from Earl Grey, dated 7 October 1857, enclosing two reports from the Land and Emigration Commissioners, on the subject of emigration from Madeira to British Guiana, and assenting to continued emigration from Madeira for the present, *ib.* 427—Particulars relative to the restrictions placed by the Colonial Office on the importation of Chinese into British Guiana, and also on the importation of immigrants generally, *Hawes* 16268.

ii. Grenada :

Despatch from Governor Reid to Earl Grey, dated 12 October 1847, enclosing despatch from Lieutenant-governor, stating his intention of proposing to the colonial legislature to withhold the bounty on immigrants from Madeira in vessels clearing out from that port, from April to September inclusive, *Rep.* iii. *App.* 460.

iii. Jamaica :

Objection made by the Colonial Office to the introduction of any immigrants except free Africans, *Lord Howard de Walden* 4518—Copy of despatch from Governor Sir C. E. Grey to Earl Grey, dated 7 June 1847, transmitting a memorial from the Chamber of Commerce, Kingston, urging further measures for promoting emigration from the coast of Africa to Jamaica, *Rep.* iii. *App.* 384—Despatch from Earl Grey in reply, dated 20 July 1847, stating that the Government can by no means adopt the views of the memorialists as regards the procuring of emigrants by redemption of captives, or otherwise, *ib.* 386.

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v. St. Vincent:

Despatch from Earl Grey to Governor Reid, dated 3 March 1847, relative to the disease and mortality among immigrants from Madeira; directing inquiry into the causes, and whether any preventive regulations can be devised, *Rep.* iii. *App.* 443—Despatch from the same to the same, dated 1 May 1847, stating that accounts having reached the Colonial Office of a like mortality among Madeira emigrants in British Guiana and Trinidad, and directing that such measures should be taken as the law will allow for stopping the bounty on the importation of immigrants from Madeira during the unhealthy months, *ib.*—Despatch from Governor Reid to Earl Grey, dated 24 May 1847, transmitting copy of a letter addressed by him to the Lieutenant-governor of St. Vincent's, directing inquiries to be made on the subject of disease and mortality said to have occurred among immigrants, *ib.*—Despatch from the same to the same, dated 29 May 1847, in reference to the preceding despatch, forwarding reports made by the Commissioners appointed by the Lieutenant-governor to inquire into the salubrity of estates in St. Vincent's, and the mortality among the Madeira emigrants, *ib.* 444—Despatch from Earl Grey to Governor Reid, dated 19 August 1845, acknowledging the preceding despatch, and approving the proceedings of the Lieutenant-governor, *ib.* 457—Despatch from Governor Reid to Earl Grey, dated 10 July 1847, enclosing a letter from the Lieutenant-governor, stating his intention of bringing under the notice of the colonial legislature the propriety of restricting the importation of emigrants to certain months in the year considered most favourable to health, *ib.* 458.

IV. Probably beneficial Effects of Immigration; Suggestions as to the best Mode of carrying it out:

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Opinion of the Committee that in any system of immigration which may be adopted, great care must be taken by Government to prevent any renewal of African slave dealing, *Rep.* viii. p. 4—Reasons why it would not do to introduce negroes into the West Indies in any large numbers at once, *Denman* 1625—The introduction of free labour into the West India colonies to the extent they want it would no doubt benefit them very much, *Alexander* 1969—The advantages of having the required importation of labour, would naturally have a different effect in the different colonies, *Moody* 5721-5723—Evidence as to the mode in which immigration into the West India colonies might be beneficially carried out, *Colville* 6075-6080—Witness looks with great dismay to the present state of the West Indies; a large importation of labour might possibly give them some chance of continuing their cultivation, *Hankey* 6964-6975—In the present state of the sugar market, and if the British planter is to be condemned to compete with him who steals the labourer, any measure of immigration would only add to the difficulties of the colonies, *Geddes* 8967.

As far as immigration is concerned, all restrictions should be taken off the British planter; they would do their best to prevent anything like slave trading, *Higgins* 9928-9930—The right of getting immigrants from any country ought to be allowed to the planters, *Barkly* 10900—But it would not be wise in them under existing circumstances to attempt to get immigrants from any country but the coast of Africa, *ib.* 10900-10906—Engagement under which witness proposes the immigrants should be imported, *ib.* 10907-10909.

Witness would not advocate any sudden increase of population in any country, particularly where no regard was paid to the equality of the sexes, *Shaw* 11645—Instead of carrying out relief under a system of immigration, a system of colonization might be introduced, *ib.* 11646—With a due regard to this subject, and if the colonists would treat them kindly when they arrived, it would be impossible to limit the number of immigrants into the colonies, *ib.* 11646-11648—Such is the enormous fertility of the mass of uncultivated ground in Berbice and Trinidad and Demerara, that with any ordinary system of immigration it would be impossible to limit it, *ib.* 11648—Any healthy emigration, a due regard being had to the equality of the sexes, would materially benefit the West India colonies, more especially British Guiana, Trinidad, and portions of Jamaica, *ib.* 11740, 11741, 11747-11749—But to suppose that immigration alone is to be a cure for all the evils is a great mistake, *ib.* 11740, 11749.

The planters want the introduction of these labourers for the purpose of bringing the existing population to terms, *Shaw* 11740-11742—There must therefore be a number adequate for that purpose introduced, *ib.* 11742—Such immigration should, however, be allowed only to proceed very gradually, *ib.* 11743-11746—Immigration is one of the remedial measures witness would suggest as calculated to relieve the distress in the West India colonies, *Innes* 13386.

There should be free and unrestricted immigration, and the planter should be allowed to go where he chooses and make contracts with the labourers, *Miles* 13550—The same system of regulations which were applied so successfully to the coolies in Trinidad should be applied to the new immigrants from Africa, *ib.* 13670, 13671—Nature

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IV. *Probably beneficial Effects of Immigration*—continued.

1. Generally—continued.

of the contracts which witness would propose should be entered into with the immigrants prior to, or immediately upon, their arrival, *Pickwood* 13912-13918—Anything that unnecessarily impedes immigration should be reconsidered and removed, *Hawes* 16499.

2. In particular Colonies:

i. Antigua:

Benefits which would result from the immigration of labourers; successful importation of people from Madeira in 1847; how far restrictions have been placed on this immigration, *Shand* 8141-8163.

ii. British Guiana:

Best mode in which the labour could be secured if immigration were to take place, *Lordale* 9799, 9800—It would be most beneficial to the colony of British Guiana if they could procure African immigrants, but there should be no stipulation to send the people back after a limited period, *Higgins* 9849-9861.

iii. Grenada:

Immigration might in some degree be advantageous to Grenada, *Hankey* 6894-6896.

iv. Jamaica:

It would be extremely advantageous if white people could be imported from the south of Europe, Maltese, Genoese, and people from the Canary Islands, *Lord Howard de Walden* 4517—The importation of labourers, even if white labourers, might be effected to a great extent with good effect upon the colony; it would be most beneficial as regards wages, *ib.* 4617-4621—The present amount of labour should be trebled, *Price* 5023, 5024—Witness has no reason to doubt the possibility of Government procuring this amount of free labour, *ib.* 5025.

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vi. Trinidad:

Evidence as to the want of labourers in Trinidad, *Lordale* 9626-9629—The colony itself passed an immigration ordinance, the object of which was to introduce labour from all parts at the expense of the colony, *Marryat* 10224, 10225—The augmentation in the export of sugar and cocoa has yielded to the revenue of the colony of Trinidad; compensation for the cost of introducing immigrants, *ib.* 10328—No very greatly increased population would be required to be introduced into Trinidad, *ib.* 10429. 10432-10441. 10512-10515—It is in the power of Parliament to improve the condition of the sugar planters in Trinidad, by increasing the population, *ib.* 10451—This would diminish the cost of production, but still they could not produce sugar at the same cost as the slave states, *ib.*

vii. St. Vincent:

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V. Papers laid before the Committee :

1. British Guiana :

Return of the immigration into British Guiana, from the 1st. August 1834 to the 31st December 1847, *Rep. iii. App. 383*—Correspondence between the governor of British Guiana, and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the subject of immigration to British Guiana, *ib. 412 et seq.*—Despatches from Governor Light to Earl Grey, dated 16 July 1847, on the subject of immigration from Madeira, *ib. 420*—Despatch from Governor Light, dated 30 August 1847, relative to emigration from the coast of Africa, *ib. 435*.

2. Jamaica :

Despatch from Earl Grey to Governor Grey, dated 30 October 1847, transmitting memorial, from proprietors and others connected with Jamaica, representing the increasing difficulties under which the cultivation of the estates is maintained for want of an adequate supply of labour, *Rep. iii. App. 356*—And also stating the measures projected by Her Majesty's Government with a view to relieve this want and to promote free emigration from Africa to the West Indies, *ib.*—Despatch from Earl Grey to Governor Sir C. E. Grey, dated 16 November 1847, containing further details of the measures for promoting the immigration of African labourers into Jamaica, *ib. 359*—Return of the immigration into Jamaica from the 1st August 1834 to the 31st December 1847, *ib. 383*—Report of the agent-general for immigration, with appendices, *ib. 387 et seq.*—Return of immigrants into Jamaica between the 1st October 1846 and 30th September 1847, *ib. 393*.

Statement of the amount drawn from the public treasury, for the purposes of immigration, from 1 October 1846 to 30 September 1847, *Rep. iii. App. 394*—Statement of the amount of tax received from the first employers of African immigrants from St. Helena, *ex "Indus,"* arrived on the 23d November 1846, *ib. 396*—Return of the employers of the African immigrants from St. Helena, who arrived during the year 1847, *ib. 397*—Form of indenture, *ib.*—Rules and regulations to be observed by the employers of East Indian immigrants, *ib. 399*—Copy of the Jamaica Act 11 Vict. c. 27, being an Act for the encouragement of immigration, *Rep. vii. App. 238*.

3. Mauritius :

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- Great errors and injustice which were committed in the way in which the Abolition Act was carried into effect, 13382—One of the greatest evils was the sudden termination of the apprenticeship, 13382, 13383—The report which witness made to Government on his return to the West Indies, stated distinctly under the heads of British Guiana, Trinidad, and Jamaica, that the whole of the planters looked forward to the impossibility of procuring continuous labour for moderate wages after the expiration of apprenticeship, 13383—The Colonial Office threw every possible obstruction in the way; if that department had been employed for the purpose of preventing the successful working of the Act, they could not have done so more effectually than they did, 13383—As regards the past, the distress in the West Indies has been attributed to the Act of 1846, more perhaps than can be fairly ascribed to it; but prospectively it will no doubt act more injuriously, 13384, 13385.

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- One of the great defects of the West Indies is the having a more extensive cultivation of sugar than can be properly attended to, 13402-13404—If one-third of the money which has been laid out against the slave trade had been employed in the improvement of the West Indies, these colonies would have produced sugar at a price which would have put an end to the slave trade, 13405-13411—Statement submitted by witness to Earl Grey, 10th November 1847, on the distress existing in the West Indies, 13412—Fair compensation ought to be given to the West India planters for the losses sustained by the Abolition Act, 13416-13426—The great commercial embarrassment which has recently prevailed has had much to do with the distressed condition of the West Indies, 13427, 13428.

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Jamaica.—Great advantages that might be conferred upon large districts of sugar plantation if money could be advanced to carry out tramways; great addition to the cost of production from the great expense of carriage in the island, *Lord Howard de Walden* 4535-4543.

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2. Madras.

III. *West Indies.*I. *Generally :*

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1. Generally.
2. Papers laid before the Committee.

1. Generally :

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2. Papers laid before the Committee :

Correspondence between Sir C. E. Grey, Governor of Jamaica, and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, relative to sugar planting in Jamaica, *Rep. iii. App. 354*—Despatch from Governor Sir C. E. Grey to Earl Grey, dated 25 March 1847, transmitting a memorial to the Queen, praying a reduction of the duties on sugar, coffee and other articles, the produce of Jamaica; the adoption of an extensive system of African immigration, and loans for drainage and improvement of land, *ib.*—Despatch from Earl Grey, dated 24 April 1847, acknowledging the receipt of the preceding despatch, and stating that the Queen has been graciously pleased to receive the memorial, *ib. 355*—Despatch from Governor Sir C. E. Grey to Earl Grey, dated 6 November 1847, transmitting copies of his speech on opening the session, with addresses and replies thereto; also containing an extract from the "Morning Journal," on the disallowance of the Act to transfer certain parochial charges to the general revenue, *ib. 360*—Copy of despatch from Earl Grey, dated 22 December 1847, acknowledging the receipt of the preceding despatch; and, in reference to the speech of the governor, regretting that certain portions of it are calculated to foster false views of the causes of distress, and ill-founded hopes of relief, *ib. 368*—And also stating the reasons for the disallowance of the Act for the transfer of certain parochial charges to the general revenue, *ib.*

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2. *Papers laid before the Committee*—continued.

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L.

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- II. *Mauritius.*
- III. *West India Colonies:*
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 2. *In particular Colonies:*
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 - ii. *Barbados.*
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British Guiana.—The relative condition of the negro in British Guiana, and the labourer in England, does not admit of a comparison; the labourer in British Guiana is so much better off, *Barkly* 10921—Increase of prosperity among the labouring class in British Guiana of late years; but their moral character has deteriorated, *ib.* 11013-11018—Estimated number of effective labourers in the colony, *ib.* 11035—Evidence in detail showing the comforts enjoyed by, and the care taken of, labourers in British Guiana, *ib.* 11039-11049.

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Result of a deputation to Lord John Russell, Lord Grey, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, of which witness was one, showing the unfavourable position of the Mauritius as regards labour, and also showing that under the existing system it is impossible for them to compete with slave labour, 3991-3993—Witness also stated to Lord John Russell that the nominal existing protective duty between Cuba sugars and Mauritius sugars was, in point of fact, a complete delusion, 3994, 3995—Amount witness received for slave compensation at the period of the emancipation, 3996, 3997.

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Sugar will never come here from India in very large quantities, unless prices are very high here, 4006—Reasons why there has always been a differential duty against India sugar up to 1835; 4007—The Mauritius was injured by the importation of the coolies having been prevented in 1838; 4008—Circumstances which led to the alteration of the system, 4009, 4010—One of the causes which have led to the great losses of the Mauritius, is the increased production of slave colonies and countries, 4011, 4012—Difficulty of finding any remedy for these evils under the existing state of things, 4013, 4014—Impossibility of the East Indies competing with the West Indies in the cultivation of sugar, even considering the great advantages possessed by the East Indies in the abundance of food and cheapness of labour, 4015-4018.

The sugar factories in the Mauritius are of a comparatively modern date, 4019, 4020—The only chance for the Mauritius is, not by making any alteration of the present duty, but by letting it remain as it is, 4021—Statement showing the total cost of production of a crop of 75,000,000 lbs. of sugar, by 200 estates, with labourers' wages at 250 dollars (50 l.), per month; the number employed being 20,000 men; the interest of capital $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. per annum, and the value of the land, &c., 30,000 l. per 1,000,000 lbs. of sugar, *ib.*—Statement showing the probable net proceeds of the crop 1844-45, taking the quantity at 75,000,000 lbs. of sugar; of which 67,500,000 lbs. white or vesou sugar sold in London, at the London average Gazette price of the 17th October 1843, viz. 23 s. 3 d. per cwt, and 7,500,000 lbs. of syrup sugar sold at Mauritius at an average of three dollars (12 s.) per 100 lbs. French weight, *Rep. ii. p. 46.*

Calculated annual expense attending the employment of 100 Indian labourers on a sugar estate, *Rep. ii. p. 47*—Statement of expenses incurred by a sugar estate working two batteries, over and above the cost of labour and provisions, *ib. 48*—Calculated monthly expenses of twenty mules in a sugar estate, *ib. 49*—Calculated monthly expenses of maintaining sixty bullocks (equal to twenty mules) in a sugar estate, *ib. 49*—The greatest part of witness's loss between 1838 and 1844 is to be attributed to the prohibition to import coolies in 1838, to the cessation of apprenticeship in 1839, and to the inadequate supply of labour till the alteration in 1842; 4022-4026—If slavery had continued the British colonies would have been able to compete with the slavery of Cuba and Brazil, 4027—India only requires cherishing, and the protection of a good price, to stimulate a boundless production of sugar, 4028-4030.

Leasing Estates. How far the system of leasing estates, as recommended by Earl Grey, would be practicable, *Shaw 11573.*

Legislative Assembly (St. Kitt's). Constitution of the Legislative Assembly of St. Kitt's, and character of the constituency, showing that the Acts to prevent vagrancy and squatting have received the sanction of the whole of the constituency of the island, a large majority of whom are coloured people, *Pickwood 13796-13804.*

Legislative Interference. Any slur which may be cast upon the British West Indians, that they do not possess the same energy, and do not invest their capital in the improvement of their estates, or in the construction of railways, as the Cubans do, may be answered by the fact that the Acts of the Legislature have ruined their credit, which would otherwise have enabled them to carry out these improvements, *Higgins 9886-9895. 9948-9952.*

Liberated Africans. One measure of relief for the West India colonies would be by directing the whole of the captured Africans to be landed in the West Indies, to be indentured for three or five years with persons who have made proper arrangements for their accommodation

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Liberated Africans—continued.

modation and location, *Colville* 5806-5814—Some proper arrangement might be made to prevent any risk of slave dealing, or any approach to it, in the procurement of these labourers, *ib.* 5815-5820—The liberated Africans should be conveyed to the West Indies at the expense of the mother country; average expense per head of conveying them, *ib.* 5862-5864—Reference to an address of Sir Charles Grey to the planters in the great sugar district of St. Thomas, showing the great benefits which have arisen there from the introduction of about 2,000 liberated Africans, *Geddes* 8944.

Failure of an attempt made in 1840 or 1842, by witness's partners, to import immigrants from Sierra Leone; there were no Africans to be had, *Lordale* 9496-9505—If a proper system were adopted, any number might be obtained from the coast of Africa; restrictions in the way of importing them; how far these restrictions apply to the Kroom coast, *ib.* 9498-9505. 9544-9548—Witness himself had coolies employed and captured Africans, *ib.* 9530—If these Africans had not been obtained, the estate must have gone out of cultivation; but they were not obtained in sufficient number to bring the estate up to its proper cultivation, which might have been done at a profit, even under existing circumstances, if a sufficient number could be obtained, *ib.* 9531-9548—Small number of liberated Africans that has been sent to the West Indies since 1846, *Higgins* 10181, 10182—A few captured Africans, liberated at Sierra Leone, have lately gone to Trinidad; they have answered very well, *Marryat* 10238-10240—The liberated Africans are not fit for emigrants, *Sir H. V. Huntley* 15988.

See also *African Immigrants.* *Slave Trade.*

Loans. As a remedial measure for the West Indies, witness would suggest that loans should be guaranteed to the colonies for the drainage or improvement of lands, *Colville* 5835-5847—The same thing was done for the landed interest of this country; extent to which such loan might possibly be required, *ib.*—Object and application of the loans which the Home Government has already advanced to British Guiana and Trinidad, *ib.* 5852-5861—Evidence as to the proposed application of the loan made by the Government to British Guiana and Trinidad, *ib.* 6019-6028.

See also *Drainage.* *Immigration, III.* *Irrigation, III.* *Machinery.*

Louisiana. Particulars as to the manner in which the cultivation of sugar in Louisiana has been increased, *Moody* 5469-5479.

Loxdale, George Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Demerara merchant; has had the charge of absentee proprietors' estates, 9429—Is joint proprietor of a small coffee estate, which is now being abandoned; it has been a losing concern since witness has had it, since 1842; witness had advanced large sums of money upon it from 1837 to 1840; it was brought to an execution sale, and witness and his partners, hoping things would improve, bought it, 9430-9434—Up to 1837 it was a profitable concern, 9435—The circumstances which have interposed to make it a losing concern since that period have been, an alteration of the duties, foreign coffee coming by the Cape, and the increased expense of labour since 1838; 9436-9445.

Cost of the production of sugar upon one of the estates for which witness is agent, in 1836, 1837, and 1844; cost of production in the intermediate years, the labour varying from 1s. 8d. to 2s.; 9446-9457. 9478-9482—There is a contract law in the colony, but the paucity of labour is such that it cannot be carried out, 9458, 9459. 9574-9580—It is very doubtful whether if the colonists were freed from all restrictions they could procure labour at such a cost as to enable them to go on with the cultivation in competition with slave-labour sugar, 9460—The soil and climate of Demerara are as well adapted for the cultivation of the cane as those of any country in the world, 9461-9464.

The freights to England on the average, as sugar freights, are lower than from any other part of the world, 9465-9474. 9478—Present price of Demerara sugar; it is not generally of equal quality with Jamaica, or Barbados, or Antigua sugar, 9475-9477—The cost of production was rather under the average in 1847; the cultivation was in better order, 9480—Statement of the produce on the estate above alluded to, in various years; price of the sugar, 9483-9489—How far improvements have been carried out on the estate, 9490-9495.

Failure of an attempt made in 1840 or 1842, by witness's partners, to import immigrants from Sierra Leone; there were no Africans to be had, 9496-9505—If a proper system were adopted, any number might be obtained; restrictions in the way of importing them; how far these restrictions apply to the Kroom coast, 9498-9505. 9544-9548—Particulars relative to the introduction of a number of Madeira emigrants into Demerara, 9506-9529—Witness is not cognizant of the effect of this immigration on the estates where they were distributed, as he was not there at the time, 9530—He himself had coolies employed, and captured Africans, *ib.*—If these Africans had not been obtained, the estate must have gone out of cultivation; but they were not obtained in sufficient number to bring the estate up to its proper cultivation, which might be done

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at a profit even under existing circumstances, if a sufficient number could be obtained, 9531-9548.

Progressive increase in the annual estimates for the services of the colony; amount of the estimates for the public service of British Guiana, for each year from 1830 to 1847, both inclusive, 9549-9556—At the present price of produce, it is impossible that the colony of British Guiana can support the present rate of expenditure, 9557-9573—Examination as to the different official salaries on the Civil List, and individual amounts thereof, paid out of the revenues of the colony, 9558-9565—The entire expense of the colony, except the bishop, stipendiary magistrates, and the collector of customs, is paid out of the revenue of the colony, 9566-9572.

An attempt has been lately made in Guiana to reduce wages, but it has not been submitted to, 9581-9583—If the present population of the colony could be induced to work continuously, the production of the colony might be doubled, 9584-9594. 9609-9625—But the only means of producing continuous labour is by the introduction of more labourers, which will then give rise to competition; witness would give the preference to captured Africans, 9595-9608—Evidence as to the want of labourers in Trinidad, 9626-9629.

If the British colonies were brought into full sugar cultivation by the sufficiency and efficiency of labour, there is no reason to fear that the importation into this country would much exceed the consumption; the consumption is greatly increasing, 9630-9657—The consumption would not be affected by a trifling rise in the price, 9634-9657—Further reasons for supposing that there is no reason to fear an over-supply of sugar; the uses to which it is to be applied are becoming every day more apparent, 9658. 9670—Amongst these are brewing and distilling, and large quantities are now consumed in confectionary, 9659-9663. 9670—The West India islands for many years previous to 1834 produced a larger quantity of sugar than this country consumed; the surplus was refined and exported, and this would probably be the case again, 9664-9681.

So far as British Guiana is concerned, labour, if they got it, would be applied to the cultivation and manufacture of sugar, so long as it paid a remunerative price; but there are other employments to which labour might be applied in that colony, 9667—Witness would rather see the immigrants landed perfectly free to engage with whomsoever they pleased, than that any system of contract should be pursued previously to their introduction, 9682-9686—Still the contract system would be better than not having the people at all, 9683—Means by which the men might be got from the coast of Africa, 9687-9694.

Great extent to which both cotton and coffee estates in Demerara have been converted into sugar estates, 9695-9699—When witness first went to the country there were nearly twenty miles of cotton, all of which has gone out of cultivation in consequence of the paucity of labour, 9695—The whole of the cotton is entirely extinct, and the export of coffee has fallen off from 4,500,000 lbs. to 100,000 lbs., 9699—If sugar did not pay they would not take to growing cotton and coffee again; they would not try cotton, as they could not compete with the slave-grown cotton of America, 9700-9703—Nothing else but sugar could be grown at a profit, 9704—The reason that sugar does not pay is the increased cost of manufacture, from our having free instead of slave labour, *ib.*

The present distress in Demerara is greater than that in 1832, although at that time the estates were paying only two and a quarter per cent. on the capital invested, 9705, 9706—Way in which a 10s.-protection would go far to relieve the present distress, notwithstanding that in 1832 they had a much greater protection than 10s. having full control over the labour and the monopoly of the English market, which only gave them two and a quarter per cent. upon their capital, 9707-9731—Further evidence as to the rates of wages and the hours of labour in Demerara, 9732-9746—Witness has employed several coolies; they are not very strong, but are tolerably efficient labourers, 9747-9749—There has been great mortality among the Madeira labourers; cause to which this may be attributed, with further evidence generally as to the importation of these labourers, 9750-9761—There are about 4,000 coolies now on their way from India to Demerara, 9762-9764.

The taxes generally are heavy in British Guiana, 9765—There is a tax on the importation of articles of food, 9766—The spiritual interests of the colony are provided for better than any other part of the world; there is a regular ecclesiastical establishment of the very first order, 9767-9778—The Africans mix with the creoles; they have no objection to work together, and to marry together, 9779-9782—Extent to which the labourers squat in Guiana, 9783-9786. 9801-9803—Witness is satisfied that free labour never can compete with slave labour till there is a population which will bring wages to a marketable rate, 9792-9796—Best mode in which the labour could be secured if immigration were to take place, 9799, 9800.

Further expression of the opinion, that though the price of sugar might be raised a penny a pound, the consumption would not fall off, 9804-9808—Statement of the comparative

Loxdale, George Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

comparative consumption of sugar for the six months ending January 1847 and January 1848, with the Gazette price at the time, 9805—Papers delivered in by witness, *Rep.* iv. p. 62-72.

Second Anniversary Report of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana, 18 March 1846, comprising a summary of the principal objects which have engaged the society's attention during the past year, with remarks on the various subjects connected with its proceedings, prepared by a committee of the society, *Rep.* iv. p. 62-67—Table of imports at the port of Georgetown, British Guiana, from the year 1836 to the year 1845, both inclusive, prepared by the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana, *ib.* 68—Table of exports from the colony of British Guiana from the year 1835 to 1845, both inclusive, prepared by the society, *ib.* 69—Extract from the register of arrivals and departures of vessels at the port of Georgetown, Demerara, for the year ending 31 December 1845, *ib.* 70, 71—Harbour-master's report of labourers introduced, 1845; table showing the number of vessels, with the amount of their tonnage, and the number of men employed navigating the same; also the number of passengers, including immigrants on bounty, that arrived in the ports of British Guiana during the year 1845, *ib.* 72.

Lucia, St. Despatch from Governor Reid to Earl Grey, dated 31 January 1848, enclosing letter from Mr. M. G. Todd, a planter of St. Lucia, showing that sugar cultivation is now carried on at a very considerable loss, *Rep.* iii. *App.* 378—Order in Council, 7 September 1838, respecting vagrancy in St. Lucia, *Rep.* vi. *App.* 166—Order in Council, 6 October 1838, respecting Crown lands' occupation in St. Lucia, *ib.* 169—Return of the amount derived from all taxes, rates, and dues, public and parochial, including the amount expended for the maintenance of schools and various church establishments, for the years 1823, 1834, 1838, and 1846, *Rep.* viii. *App.* 51, 52.

M.

Muatschappy Company (Java). The Muatschappy Company is exclusively a trading company, doing business for the Government; they are not cultivators of sugar in Java at all themselves, *St. Martin* 12053-12062—The Dutch Trading Company are not ship-owners; way in which ships are taken up for conveying sugar from Java to Holland, *ib.* 12088-12093.

M'Chlery, Mr. M. Memorandum of Mr. M. M'Chlery, London, accompanying seven samples of muscovado sugar, and a table of data and results, *Rep.* viii. *App.* 80.

M'Crae, Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence).—Was surgeon of the "Growler;" joined her at Woolwich in May 1847; she left England for the purpose of transporting Kroomen to the West Indies; has been two voyages to the West Indies, 13155-13158—These voyages were not successful, as far as the health of the immigrants were concerned, 13159—Detail of the circumstances of these voyages as regards the health of the immigrants, 13160-13205. 13345-13348—The mortality on the second voyage was greater than on the first; this may be attributed to their broken-down state when taken on board, owing to their previous treatment, and their sufferings in their state of captivity, 13178-13205.

One great difficulty in the way of getting free labourers from the coast of Africa would be the unwillingness of the people themselves to go; their idea of a ship and a white man is slavery, 13206-13208. 13245-13250—The ordinary race of Africans that are kidnapped for slaves are very low in intellect, 13209-13216—They are, generally speaking, not very athletic; the habits of the women are better than those of the men, and they are more industrious; the men are very indolent, 13217-13228.

From 1844 till 1846 witness was attached to the "Cygnet" cruiser in the Bight of Benin, 13229-13232—During witness's servitude she detained eighteen slavers, but fourteen only were condemned; only two of these had slaves on board, 13233-13235—The way in which the fact of so small a number of loaded ships being captured may be accounted for is, that they are very careful in shipping the slaves unless they know that the coast is clear of a cruiser, 13236-13239. 13303-13308—The privations of the slaves are much aggravated by the severe blockade service, 13240-13243—Witness is not aware of any other source from which free labourers could be obtained from the coast of Africa, except the Queen's Yard or the Kroo coast, 13244, 13245.

The number to be obtained from the Kroo coast would be very limited; probable number which might be obtained from Sierra Leone, 13251-13268—The "Growler" was not a proper vessel for conveying emigrants; a 46-gun frigate would have been better, 13272-13276, 13282-13293—There is no reason why the mortality should be very great if the emigration were carried on in a proper manner, 13277-13279—If the Africans were willing to leave their country there is no doubt a great number of emigrants might be obtained, 13280, 13281—Horrible manner in which the slaves are packed on board

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M'Crae, Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

the slavers; filthy state in which they are kept; bad quality of the water; mortality resulting therefrom, 13294-13302, 13309-13325—There is nothing like an adequate supply of Africans for the wants of our British colonies to be obtained either from the Kroo coast, the Fish coast, or Sierra Leone; and in the present state of the country it would not be practicable to obtain labourers from other parts of Africa, 13326-13338.

It would be almost an impossibility to blockade the coast of Africa so as to entirely put down the slave trade. 13339-13344. 13356, 13357—Evidence as to the mortality among Europeans in Sierra Leone, 13349-13355—The present attempt at a blockade of the coast of Africa has not done much good in suppressing the slave trade, and has certainly increased the sufferings of the slaves, 13358, 13359—The best mode of putting down the slave trade would be by making treaties with the chiefs to put it down in their own possessions; this might probably be done by giving them a subsidy, but would be difficult so long as the temptation is so great, 13360-13371—The slave trade has been very much stimulated in the last two years by the alteration in the laws of this country, 13372.

MACHINERY:

I. Generally.

II. Extent to which Machinery has been introduced into India, and into various Colonies; Effects resulting therefrom:

1. India.
2. Mauritius.
3. West Indies:
 - i. Generally.
 - ii. Antigua.
 - iii. Cuba.
 - iv. Jamaica.
 - v. St. Kitt's.

I. Generally:

Witness attaches more importance to the introduction of labour than to the introduction of machinery, *Moody* 5727.

II. Extent to which Machinery has been introduced into India, and into various Colonies; Effects resulting therefrom:

1. India:

Capital invested by witness's firm in steam machinery and new buildings at Tirhoot; immense expense of conveying the machinery from England, *Crooke* 67-77—Amount of machinery shipped from this country to British possessions in India in each year, from 1835 to 1846, *Bagshaw* 284—Steam engines are now manufactured in Calcutta, but not so cheaply as in England, *ib.* 285—Half a million sterling has been expended in machinery for the sole purpose of manufacturing sugar, *ib.*—Witness does not intend sending out to Madras improved machinery; at present prices of sugar it would not pay, *Ellis* 15796-15801.

2. Mauritius:

On witness's estates in the Mauritius he has the most improved machinery in great abundance, *Hunter* 2382, 2383.

3. West Indies:

i. Generally:

Previously to 1844 there was great unwillingness on the part of the West Indians to introduce mechanical improvements on account of the doubt as to what duty their sugar would be admitted at, *Moody* 5454—After 1844 the demand for machinery continued to increase materially, *ib.*—About the autumn of 1846 it was decidedly checked, *ib.* 5454-5456, 5459—Difficulties in the way of working the machinery in the West Indies, from the want of engineers and mechanics, and people to repair it, *ib.* 5460-5462—Cost of a set of machinery sufficient to make about 800 tons of sugar in 116 days of fifteen hours; how far, in the present state of credit in the West Indies, planters would be able to borrow money to set up such machinery, *ib.* 5487, 5488—Even if such works were completed it would not enable the British planter to compete with the foreign colonies, *ib.* 5489, 5490.

ii. Antigua:

Witness intended sending out machinery, but from the immense supply of sugar likely to come from Cuba, has abandoned that intention, *Tollemache* 7872-7876—Witness has introduced machinery and agricultural implements to a great extent on his estate in Antigua, and by this means has reduced labour in a great measure, *Sir W. Codrington* 8445, 8446.

iii. Cuba:

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MACHINERY—continued.II. *Extent to which Machinery has been introduced into India*—continued.

3. West Indies—continued.

iii. Cuba :

Extent to which machinery has been introduced into Cuba, *Higgins* 9908-9912—Improvements made in machinery in Cuba, *Hawes* 16312-16316.

iv. Jamaica :

Difficulty of getting machinery repaired in Jamaica, *Lord Howard de Walden* 4547—It is very questionable whether the amount of machinery imported by witness, and the use of agricultural implements, has had any effect in reducing the amount of labour employed on his estate, *Price* 5035-5039—Still there is no doubt it has very much improved the system of cultivation, *ib.* 5035—Detail of the improvements which have been made on witness's estate in the machinery for the manufacture of sugar, *ib.* 5040-5058. 5061-5066.

v. St. Kitt's :

Extent to which machinery has been introduced, *Greene* 6120-6130.

See also *Manufacture of Sugar*.

Madagascar. Madagascar is the proper source for the supply of labourers to the Mauritius, *Raymond* 2164. 2241 *et seq.*—This applies particularly to those portions of the population of Madagascar called the Hovahs and Sakalavas, who are a manly and brave people, *ib.* 2246-2254—The latter might be got in any quantity, and would be but too happy to emigrate, *ib.* 2255, 2256—The Mauritius is placed under great disadvantages by the bad relations now existing between it and Madagascar, *Chapman* 3535-3542—The Mauritius depends entirely upon Madagascar for its supply of cattle, *ib.* 3537-3542.

The island of Mauritius has suffered very materially, as has also the mother country, from the interruption of the amicable relations with the Queen of Madagascar, *Hunter* 2458-2464. 2613-2618—Restrictions on the importation of free labourers from Madagascar and other places, *Blyth* 3164-3168. 3170-3173. 3275-3285—Evidence as to the supply of labourers that might be obtained from Madagascar, *ib.* 3275-3285—Difficulty in the way of promoting the immigration of labourers from Madagascar into the Mauritius, *Hawes* 16410-16418.

Madeira Immigrants :

Antigua.—The introduction of 2,000 fresh labourers from Madeira would not occasion discontent; it would be better for the people of Antigua that they should be imported, *Tollemache* 7948-7964. 7968.

Demerara.—Particulars relative to the introduction of a number of Madeira emigrants into Demerara, *Loxdale* 9506-9529—Witness is not cognizant of the effect of this immigration on the estates where they were distributed, as he was not there at the time, *ib.* 9530—There has been great mortality among the Madeira labourers; cause to which this may be attributed, with further evidence generally as to the importation of these labourers, *ib.* 9750-9761.

Madras. Memorandum on sugar cultivation in Rajahmundry, Madras, drawn up 1 June 1844, by Captain A. Cotton, civil engineer, First Division, *Prideaux* 1338-1343—Memorandum drawn up by Mr. Rohde, of the Madras civil service, on the cultivation of sugar in the districts of Madras, commonly called the Northern Circars, *ib.* 1343-1346—Actual state of the sugar cultivation in Madras at the present time, *ib.* 1374-1381—There is no doubt that a greatly increased production of sugar in the presidency of Madras would be beneficial to the revenue of the East India Company, *Melville* 1403.

The sugar trade of Madras was entered upon with great spirit in 1844, and has increased with unusual rapidity, *Arbuthnot* 2017, 2018—Extent to which it had increased in 1847 beyond what it was in 1843, *ib.* 2020—In the early part of this trade it was carried on to a very good profit, *ib.* 2021—The state of the trade now is one of great alarm and apprehension, it is carried on at a considerable loss, *ib.* 2022—Qualities of the sugar exported from Madras, *ib.* 2023, 2024—Paris of the Madras presidency from which sugar is principally obtained for export, *Ellis* 15760, 15761—Situations of the English establishments for the export of sugar in the Madras presidency, *ib.* 15762.

Increase which has taken place in the production of sugar in Madras for exportation since 1842, *Ellis* 15783-15790—Very little improvement has taken place since that period in the process of manufacture, *ib.* 15791-15795—Total amount of sugar exported from Madras, proportion obtained from the Palmyra juice, the remainder being obtained from the cane, *ib.* 15815-15817—At a fair remunerating price the production of sugar in Madras might be increased to a very considerable extent at the present cost of production, *ib.* 15860-15869—The cultivation of sugar has been of great benefit to the presidency, *ib.* 15880—It has in some places improved the condition of the ryots, *ib.* 15881.—See also *Capital*, I. *Ganjam District*. *Roads*. *Rum*. *Wages*, I. 2.

Magistrates. See *Stipendiary Magistrates*.

Malacca. The cultivation of sugar has not yet been entered into in Malacca on account of the threatening aspect of things in England, and the uncertainty as to what alterations may take place in the sugar duties, *Wray* 414—As respects sugar lands, Malacca is, in every sense of the word, superior to Province Wellesley; it is the most perfect sugar country witness can conceive, *ib.* 491.—See also *Straits Settlements*.

Malt Distillers. In Scotland considerably more malt is used than in England, *Currie* 8654.—This may possibly press more heavily upon the Scotch than upon the English distiller, *ib.* 8659.—Difficulty of estimating correctly the extent to which the different excise regulations raise the cost of malt spirits; witness would say that it is under-rated at 6d. a gallon, exclusive of wastage and leakages and the malt duty, *Gray* 9232. 9305.—Present amount of duty on malt spirits in Scotland, including the duty on malt, on spirits consumed in Scotland, *ib.* 9233-9235.—Duty on these spirits if sent to Ireland, *ib.* 9236.—And if sent to England, *ib.* 9237.

The disadvantage which the malt distiller is under applies not only to rum but to all spirits manufactured in the British possessions in America, *Gray* 9243-9245.—The additional impediments upon the Scotch distiller which do not prevail as regards the English distiller are the regulations with respect to distillation, and the regulations attending the collection of the malt duty, *ib.* 9331-9336.—Difference between the English and Scotch cost of manufacturing spirits from malt, *ib.* 9400-9406.—Account of the quantities of malt spirits imported into Ireland from Scotland, and into Scotland from Ireland, the quantities brought to charge for consumption in those countries and exported to foreign parts from 1826 to 1847, *Wood's Ev., Rep.* vi. p. 120.—The disadvantages imposed upon the malt distillers by the excise restrictions are compensated for by the mode in which the payment of that duty takes place, *Wood* 14969-14973.—Duty on malt spirits exported from the United Kingdom to Canada and other British colonies, showing the high rate of such duty as compared with the duty on colonial spirits imported into the United Kingdom, *ib.* 15170-15179.

See also *Distillers*, 4. *Scotch Distillers*.

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2. *Opinions that the Repeal of these Laws would be of very little Advantage to our Colonies.*
3. *Opinions that such Repeal would be of no Advantage whatever.*

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One of the greatest difficulties the proprietors have to contend with as regards labour is in its not being continuous, 5002, 5003. 5007, 5008—A species of apprenticeship, such as existed shortly after emancipation, would be the only means of curing this evil, 5004-5006—With respect to the importation of labourers, some of those that were imported from the coast of Africa worked remarkably well, but none except those have done the proprietors any good, 5009—The failure of witness's estate arose principally from the machinery not being in order, and the difficulty of getting it repaired, also from the length of time occupied in putting it up; if they had had slaves instead of free labourers it might have been put up in half the time, 5010-5019.

The only system that would enable the witness to recover his estates would be a system of protection; witness would suggest a protection of 10s. per cwt., 5020, 5021—It would not be necessary that this protection should be continued for any number of years, 5022—If the protection were accompanied by such measures as would give them a supply of labour in Jamaica at 2d. or 4d. a day they might get out of their difficulty, 5022-5028—The present amount of labour should be trebled, 5023, 5024—Witness has no reason to doubt the possibility of Government procuring free labour to this amount, 5025—There is a sufficient supply of free labour to be had from the coast of Africa, 5025-5027.

Government should bear the expense of importing these negroes; witness would be very much surprised if Government were to ask the proprietors to bear any portion of it; they have no right to do so, 5029-5032—Witness regards the question entirely as a question of labour, 5033—There is nothing to hinder our competing with slave labour provided we get labour at the same rate, 5034—The amount of capital invested in land witness would say is about the same in the two cases, *ib.*—It is very questionable whether the amount of machinery imported by witness, and the use of agricultural implements, has had any effect in reducing the amount of labour employed on the estate, 5035-5039—There is no doubt it has very much improved the system of cultivation, 5035.

Detail of the improvements which have been made on witness's estate in the machinery for the manufacture of sugar; expense to which he has gone in laying down a tramway; it is very doubtful whether the plan has answered, 5040-5058. 5061-5066—Number of cattle on the estate; average price of these cattle, 5059, 5060—Witness's future course with respect to this estate will depend entirely upon the steps taken by the Government, 5067-5072—Witness is not in favour of planters going out to Jamaica and managing their own estates; he went out himself and did very little good; everything depends on having a good agent, 5073-5085.

Evidence as to the moral condition of the negro population, 5086—Practice of the negroes to work for a week and then disappear for weeks; this is ruinous to the planter, 5087-5097—The planters and others suffer, not so much from the want of continuous labour, as from the want of continuous labour at proper prices, 5098-5103—They are not supplied with labour at a remunerative rate, and consequently cannot compete with the slave owner, 5103, 5104—Whether the present labour in Jamaica might be altogether superseded by imported labour, 5105-5108. 5113-5115—Reasons for witness not putting any great faith in Lord Elgin's Report, 5109-5113.

The importation of Coolies into Jamaica has not answered, 5116-5118—The great want in the island is money, 5119—Advances of money are not now made from this country, 5120—If labour were freely introduced there is no reason to doubt that capital would also be introduced by new capitalists, 5121-5123—Probable effect of the estates in Jamaica being thrown up, 5124-5127. 5134 *et seq.*—Evidence as to the idle habits of the negroes, and their predilection for squatting, 5128-5133—There is no property so highly mortgaged as West India property, 5134-5140—Nothing will save the island but a protective duty until such time as wages shall be brought to a level that will enable the planters to compete with slave-grown sugar; this duty should be fixed at 10s. per cwt., 5141-5149. 5153-5160.

Government should bring more labour into the island from the coast of Africa, which would reduce the price of labour in Jamaica, 5142, 5143—Extent to which there is any parochial system in Jamaica for the support of the poor population, 5150-5152—Rate of wages which would enable the estates to be cultivated, 5161-5163—If they could get labourers there is no reason to suppose but that the planters would give them continuous employment, 5164-5169—As a general rule the wages have been regularly paid in the island, 5170-5177.

Formerly the estimated purchase of an estate in Jamaica was 30 years; since emancipation they do not fetch 14 years' purchase, 5181-5187—Further evidence in favour of protection, 5192-5197—The present panic in Jamaica is not likely to be checked unless some steps be taken by the Home Government to check it, 5203-5209.

Witness is satisfied with the present price of sugar to the consumer; what he wants is a reduction of the duty paid by the planter; he would rather the standard of sugar should be at 40s. than at 60s.; 5210-5229—There is no export duty on the produce of Jamaica, 5230—The local taxation in the island is very high, 5231, 5232—Witness is sorry to hear that the Colonial Office has abandoned the plan of importing

Reports, 1847-48—continued.

Price, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

Africans into Jamaica, 5233—Character of the contracts with the labourers, 5234-5240—Jamaica received 19*l.*-odd compensation per head for the slaves, whilst the Government's own valuer valued them at 49*l.*; 5243-5252.

Price, Mr. Witness has heard a great deal of Mr. Price's improvements, and Lord Elgin held him forth as a pattern for Jamaica planters, *Lord Howard de Walden* 4544—On witness's arriving in the island he found that Mr. Price's estate had completely failed, and that all his schemes had fallen to the ground; his machinery was lying about, and had been for several months, *ib.* 4544-4547. 4551.

PRICES :

I. Of Coffee.

II. Of Sugar :

1. Opinions as to the Principal Causes of the existing Low Prices of Sugar; how far they are likely to improve.
2. Probable Evils which will result if the present Low Prices of Sugar in this Country continue.
3. How far any Remedy might be applied to the present state of things, as regards Prices.
4. General Statements as to the Prices of Sugar in London, and the Prices in the Countries where they are produced.
5. Prices in this Country at which Sugars produced in the Colonies, &c. might be sold so as to be remunerative.
6. Opinions that very High Prices would not be beneficial; they could not be maintained.

I. Of Coffee :

After the present depression has passed away there is every reason to believe the price of coffee will advance, *Christian* 14512—There is no chance of the price rising to such an extent as to induce parties to increase the cultivation, or even to keep it up, *ib.* 14514—Witness is proprietor of a coffee estate in Ceylon to the extent of about 300 acres, *Anstruther* 16691-16693—Was tempted into the speculation in consequence of the high prices of coffee in 1840, consequent upon the falling off in the cultivation of coffee in the West Indies, which followed upon the emancipation of the slaves, *ib.* 16695—Great annual loss on this estate, consequent on the present low price of coffee, *ib.* 16695, 16696—The present price would not remunerate the planter for the cost of cultivation within 8*s.* or 10*s.* a cwt., *ib.* 16696—If the duty were to be reduced 2*d.* a pound upon British colonial coffee, and the existing duty on foreign coffee remain as it is, it would very likely set up the colony, *ib.* 16708-16713. 16728-16733. 16804-16806.

II. Of Sugar :

1. Opinions as to the Principal Causes of the existing Low Prices of Sugar; how far they are likely to improve :

The quantity of sugar exported from India has greatly increased since the Dhobah Company started; But witness doubts whether the export has been large enough to affect prices, *Kemshead* 1092, 1093—Evidence showing that it is not the high price at Calcutta, but the fall in the price here, that has made the sugar trade unprofitable latterly, *Alexander* 1806-1818—The low price of sugar may perhaps in some measure be attributed to the pressure of the times latterly, *ib.* 1936, 1937—The present low price may be accounted for by the large stock on hand, and the large supplies expected this year, *Arbuthnot* 2053—The extended culture in Porto Rico and Brazil, particularly in Cuba, and also the large crop expected in North America, will prevent prices rising, *Blyth* 3271.

Extent to which the price of sugar has been depreciated by the competition of slave-grown sugar, owing to the Act of 1846, *Chapman* 3473-3476—It is witness's opinion that but for the passing of this Act sugar could not have failed to have risen in price, *ib.* 3476—Comparative prices of West India average brown sugar paying 14*s.* duty, and Havannah yellow sugar, in each month from May 1846 to February 1848, showing that the operation of general circumstances upon slave-labour sugar as compared with Mauritius sugar is entirely owing to the Act of 1846, *Sir G. Larpent* 3986-3990—Effect of the proposition of our Government in 1844, to admit foreign free-labour sugar at a protecting duty of 10*s.* per cwt. on the price of sugar, *Scott* 5259-5270—Effect of the Bill of 1846, admitting slave-grown sugar, on the prices of sugars, *ib.* 5271-5290.

PRICES—continued.

II. Of Sugar—continued.

1. Opinions as to Principal Causes of the existing Low Prices of Sugar, &c.—continued.

Prior to the year 1834, and to the extermination of slavery, there were periods of great fluctuation in sugar, *Colville* 6038, 6039—Price at which foreign sugar has been sold in London before the Act of 1846 passed, which raised its value in the British market, *Greene* 6103-6106—The crop arriving here in 1847 has been larger than any sugar crop for many years; how far this excess of quantity has tended to reduce the price, *ib.* 6252-6269—Witness does not attribute the present price of sugar entirely to the Act of 1846, but to that combined with the Act of 1844, *Higgins* 9881—Witness cannot admit that there are other things besides these prices that have brought about the present state of ruin in the West Indies, excepting the irregularity and insufficiency of labour, *ib.* 9952-9954—There is every reason to fear that the prices of British sugars instead of rising will fall still further, *Greene* 16678-16683.

2. Probable Evils which will result if the present Low Prices of Sugar in this Country continue:

Opinion of the Committee that the present abandonment of estates which is taking place in the West India colonies will lead to a diminution of the production of sugar, *Rep.* viii. p. 3—The first effect of this diminution will be an increase in the price of sugar, and the ultimate effect a greater extension of the growth of sugar in slave countries, and a greater impetus to slavery and the slave trade, *ib.* 4—Anticipated extent of the falling off in the export of sugar from Bengal to this country if the low prices continue, *Crooke* 161-165—Evils which would result to that presidency from this falling off, *ib.* 168-176—The increase in the export of sugar from India to Great Britain, and the diminution in that to other countries, since 1833, may be attributed to the prices which have ruled in this country, *Bagshaw* 281—At the present prices it is utterly impossible that any large amount of sugar should be exported from India by the natives to the English market, *Kemshead* 1019-1027—Opinion that at the present prices the export of sugar from India must very much fall off, if not be altogether annihilated, *Tucker* 1277-1284—At the present prices the export of sugar from India must materially diminish, *Melville* 1386-1388. 1395.

Unless the prices rise in this country above what they now are, the exportation of sugar from India will be very much diminished, *Alexander* 1818, 1819—It is extremely probable, if prices here do not improve, the cultivation of sugar in Madras will be abandoned, *Arbutnot* 2023-2025. 2031, 2032—What the colonies fear is not so much the actual state of things at present as the prospective consequence of the present prices, and the present state of the law, *Chapman* 3871-3875—Probable evil consequences to the island of Jamaica, as regards its state of society, its yearly revenue, and its political and military prospects, if the present depreciation of the price of its produce should continue, *Lord Howard de Walden* 4585-4589—Calculation, as regards witness's own estates in Jamaica, showing the probable results of the cultivation if the present prices of sugar and rum should prevail, *Colville* 5768, 5769—Evidence in detail showing that the present cause of the depression in the West Indies is the want of a sufficient price here for their sugar, *ib.* 5962-5988.

The colonies are complaining of the prices of sugar, *Shaw* 11655—If the present prices continue, the island cannot continue the cultivation of sugar; witness's feeling, however, is that prices will not remain as low as they now are; price of sugar which would enable the proprietors to carry on the cultivation, *Pickwood* 14030-14037. 14097-14106—If prices remain as they are the export of sugar from Madras must diminish, *Ellis* 15900-15933. 15957, 15958.

3. How far any Remedy might be applied to the present state of things, as regards Prices:

Some steps should be taken by the Legislature to raise the price, *Lord Howard de Walden* 4640-4648. 4652-4657. 4665-4669—If the price of sugar could be raised here for the present, and means were given for continued cultivation by procuring additional labourers, the colonies might perhaps still thrive, *Higgins* 9993—Evidence to show that any enormous increase of production which might arise under these circumstances would be advantageous rather than otherwise, *ib.* 9994-9997. 10041, 10042—There is no other means of supporting the price of sugar than that of excluding slave sugar, and also foreign sugar, *ib.* 9998-10002—Even with a reduction of 25 per cent. in all the wages and salaries, unless the planters in Trinidad can obtain a better price for their produce, the estates must still remain very large losers, *Miles* 13519.

4. General Statements as to the Prices of Sugar in London, and the Prices in the Countries where they are produced:

Average price of East India sugar in London in January 1847; rate of freights and insurance, *Bagshaw* 285-290—Prices at which the sugar refined by the natives, of the same class as muscovado sugar, but rather an inferior sort, was sold in Calcutta and in

PRICES—continued.

II. Of Sugar—continued :

4. General Statements as to Prices of Sugar in London, &c.—continued.

England in 1845 at the higher rate of duty, *Wray* 340-348—Price of the finer muscovado sugars at Calcutta at the same period, *ib.* 348-350—Statement showing the prices of sugar at Calcutta, from January to July 1846, *Tucker* 1269—There has not been much increase in the price in India since the importation to this country, though there is a large native consumption, *ib.* 1319, 1320—Reasons for forming the opinion that a fall in the price of sugar here would not cause a fall in the price in India, *Alexander* 1895-1898.

The price of British plantation sugar has fallen between January and December 1847 about 13*l.* a ton, *Blyth* 3107-3109—Extent to which the property in which witness is interested has been depreciated by this fall, *ib.* 3110-3125, 3261-3270—Difference in price on the consignments of sugar witness had from the Mauritius in 1846 and 1847, *Guthrie* 4147-4152—Statement of the price of muscovado sugar in Cuba at the present time, *Greene* 6107, 6108—Price at which the sugar of Porto Rico is sold on the spot, *ib.* 6188-6190—Present price of Demerara sugar; it is not generally of equal quality with Jamaica or Barbados or Antigua sugar, *Loxdale* 9475-9477.

Particulars relative to the price of brown Berbice sugars, *Barkly* 10779-10783—Present prices of sugar at Batavia; no sugar at the present prices can be imported from Batavia under the existing duty, *St. Martin* 11945-11950, 12121-12134—Witness delivers in a chart, prepared for the Committee, showing the variations in the prices of British plantation average sugar, and of Havannah sugar in bond, for the eight years 1840 to 1847, distinguishing the months, *Woodhouse* 12151-12163—The result of this chart shows that from January 1844 to December 1847 British plantation sugar has fallen from 34*s.* 6*d.* to 22*s.* 6*d.*, while yellow Havannah has risen from 19*s.* to 20*s.* 6*d.*, *ib.* 12153-12160—Price of Java sugar in bond in London at the present time, *ib.* 12168-12170—Way in which the price of Havannah sugar is partially regulated by the state of the crops in Louisiana, *ib.* 12171-12182—Average value of the bulk of the sugar from British possessions, *ib.* 12295-12298—Prices which have ruled in Cuba for sugars, *Harbottle* 15369-15376—Price which Cuba sugars would fetch in this market, *ib.* 15379-15381.

Comparative statement of the value of the sugars imported from the British West Indies in 1814, in the year 1830, and in the year 1847, with an estimate of what the value will be in 1848, affording a most conclusive answer to the doubts of those who think that the cry of ruin as regards the British West Indies is only a false cry, *Greene* 16684, 16685—Average price of sugar, West India, East India, and Mauritius, conjointly, taken from the London Gazette, for each week from 4 January to 25 April 1848, *Rep.* viii. App. 6—Average prices of foreign sugar sold for home consumption in the year 1847, *ib.*—Totals of the average value of the British and foreign sugar consumed in the United Kingdom in 1847, *ib.* 10—Account showing the comparative quantities of sugar entered for home consumption in each of the first three months of 1847 and 1848, with the Gazette average prices of sugar and wheat in each month, *ib.* 79.

5. Prices in this Country at which Sugars produced in the Colonies, &c. might be sold so as to be remunerative :

Price at which witness considers sugars produced in India might be remunerative, *Bagshaw* 317-319—Evidence in detail, showing that sugar cannot be profitably exported from India at a lower price in London than 25*s.* per cwt., *Tucker* 1271-1277—Particulars relative to the price at Calcutta; the rate of freight &c.; price at which it ought to be bought at Calcutta, in order, with the present prices here, to pay the importer, *Alexander* 1806-1818—Opinion that it is not likely to be obtained at that price, on account of the internal demand arising in the west of India, *ib.* 1818—To be remunerative, no large quantity of sugar could be drawn from India under an average price of 16*s.* a cwt. in that country, *ib.* 2015, 2016.

Statement in detail as to the cost of the production of sugar in Madras; price at which it can be delivered in this country, *Arbuthnot* 2032-2045, 2061, 2062, 2097-2117—Price which can be obtained for this sugar in this country, showing a profit of 3*s.* per cwt., *ib.* 2046-2050—If this profit were certain, the parties interested would be satisfied, 2051—But from the uncertainty of the property, and risks and other contingencies, witness does not consider this margin of profit sufficient, *ib.* 2051-2054, 2057-2059—Five shillings per cwt. profit would be remunerative, *ib.* 2055, 2056—Further evidence, showing that a margin of profit of 3*s.* per cwt. is not sufficient, *ib.* 2085-2090—Probability that in July next, when the duty will be reduced 1*s.* 6*d.*, the margin will be still further diminished, *ib.*

Detail of the cost of production of sugar in the Mauritius; price at which it can now be sold in England, and price it ought to fetch to leave a remunerative profit, *Hunter* 2631-2661, 2667-2669—The present price of sugar is inadequate to replace the cost of production upon the great majority of the estates in Jamaica, *Lord Howard*

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II. Of Sugar—continued. •

5. Prices at which Sugar produced in the Colonies, &c.—continued.

de Walden 4640-4648. 4652-4657. 4665-4669—Present average price of West India sugar; this price would not have been remunerative even if emancipation had not taken place, *Scott* 5332-5336—At present prices Jamaica does not hold out much prospect of profitable cultivation, *Dickon* 6590 *et seq.*—Thirty-nine shillings would be a remunerating price to witness, though it would be so to a very small extent, *Tollemache* 7965-7967. 7969-7972—It is only the splendid crop of 1847 which has enabled the planters to look for anything like a return at the present low prices, *Sir W. Codrington* 8448-8450. 8473—Minimum price at which sugar can be produced in Barbados so as to be remunerative to the cultivator, *Best* 11297-11303. 11349. 11359-11370.

6. Opinions that very High Prices would not be beneficial; they could not be maintained:

Witness is not an advocate for high prices, as they would be no benefit to India, and would be a disadvantage to the native consumers, *Bagshaw* 317. 320-324—Reasons for forming the opinion that very high prices could not be maintained, *ib.* 323-328—Witness does not wish for a higher price of sugar here, but for a lower cost of production in the colonies, *Moody* 5689-5702.

See also *Abandonment of Estates*, I. II. *Antigua*, 1. *Benares Sugar*. *Bengal*.
British Guiana. *Capital*. *Clayed Sugars*. *Coffee*, I. 1. *Consumers*.
Cost of Production. *Cultivation of Sugar*, II. 1. *Distress*. *Holland*.
Java. *Madras*. *Quality of Sugar*. *Railways*. *Remittances from India*.
Rum. *Slave-grown Sugar*.

Prideaux, Francis William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Assistant to the Examiner of India Correspondence, at the East India House, 1328—Has heard the evidence of Mr. Tucker, Chairman of the East India Company, and is not aware that he can add anything to it with respect to the interest which India has in sugar cultivation and the exportation of sugar to Great Britain, 1329—The probability is that the annihilation of the exportation of sugar from India would throw the sugar lands out of cultivation, 1330-1332—This would most materially affect the revenue of India, as three-fifths of the revenue are derived from the land-tax, *ib.*—Particulars as to the assessment on land, and the revenue derived from this source in the different presidencies, *ib.*—Correspondence between the Chamber of Commerce of Calcutta and the government of India, at the close of 1846, relative to the cultivation of sugar, delivered in and read, 1332, *Rep.* i. p. 125-127.

Cost at which sugar can be produced and delivered in Madras; price which this sugar would fetch in England, 1334-1338—Memorandum on sugar cultivation in Rajahmundry, Madras, drawn up 1 June 1844, by Captain A. Cotton, civil engineer, first division, 1338-1343, *Rep.* i. p. 127-130—Memorandum drawn up by Mr. Rohde, of the Madras civil service, on the cultivation of sugar in the districts of Madras commonly called the Northern Circars, 1343-1346—Statement of the quantity and value of sugar exported from the three presidencies to all parts of the world, distinguishing the yearly exports to the United Kingdom, from 1836-37 to 1845-46; 1347, and *Rep.* i. *App.* 292—Similar return relative to coffee, 1347, and *Rep.* i. *App.* 293—Increase in the export of sugar from Madras during this period, 1348.

How far the differential duty affected the export of sugar from Madras, 1349-1351—Bombay, which still has a differential duty against it, exports sugar to this country, though not a large quantity, 1351-1355—Proportion of the gross revenues of India paid over to England, 1361—Statement of the gross trade of the three presidencies with the Mauritius, from 1840-41 to 1844-45, showing that a portion of the means of India to pay her remittances to this country arises from this trade, 1365-1367—Information relative to the excise duty on rum in India, and as to the amount of revenue arising from the duty on spirits generally, 1368-1371—Actual state of the sugar cultivation in Madras at the present time, 1374-1381.

Produce. The produce of the land in Antigua, with the same number of labourers, might be rendered much greater by better management, *Tollemache* 7998—Return showing the diminution in the produce of the principal West India colonies during the last three years of freedom, as compared with the last three years of slavery, *Marryat* 10314-10328—Trinidad and Antigua are exceptions to this rule; reason of this, *ib.* 10319-10323—If all the West India islands were able to produce more sugar, it would not be an advantage to them; but if the market were thrown open to them and to all other countries, it would benefit the country which had the most fertile soil, *Crawford* 13081.

Production of Sugar. Increase in the production of sugar in the island of Mauritius, notwithstanding all the restrictions as to labour under which the planters suffer, *Chapman* 0.32.

Reports, 1847-48—continued.

Production of Sugar—continued.

man 3836-3841—The first effect of the increased price which would be consequent upon a 10 s. protection, would be to increase the production, *Greene* 6305-6311.

See also *Abandonment of Estates.* *Cost of Production.* *Cultivation of Sugar.*
Over-Production. *Prices.* *Soil.* *Supply of Sugar.*

Profits. Reasons why the West Indies have not made a larger return from their larger crop of this year, though produced at a less price, *Hankey* 7052-7063—The planters ought to get 10 per cent upon their capital employed upon the works, the land, and the plant, taking into consideration the risks that property in the West Indies is subject to, earthquakes, hurricanes, and other calamities, *Pell* 9199-9204.

PROTECTIVE DUTY:

I. *On Coffee.*II. *On Sugar:*

1. Generally.
2. Abandonment of Estates, and Diminution of the Cultivation of Sugar, which must result from the withdrawal of all Protection.
3. Probable Benefits which would arise to the Colonies from Protection; Suggestions and Opinions as to the Amount of Protection necessary.
4. How far any Protection which may be afforded as against Foreign Sugar need be permanent.
5. Opinions that no Parliamentary Interference would now restore Confidence as regards the Colonies.
6. Papers laid before the Committee.

I. *On Coffee:*

Opinion that an increase of protection would not lead to any over production of coffee in Ceylon, *Christian* 14548-14550. 14572-14586—Witness has no great hope in the present state of public opinion that a higher protection than 50 per cent. will be given upon coffee, *ib.* 14589-14593—Witness's sole reason for seeking the maintenance of the present protection is to give an increased price to the production of coffee, *ib.* 14666-14673—It is principally the last reduction of the protecting duty from 4 d. to 2 d. per lb. which has made the difference between the estates being very profitable or very ruinous, *Anstruther* 16696-16701—To this cause may be added the anticipation of a further reduction, which prevents purchases being made, and the over-cultivation which has taken place, *ib.* 16699-16704.

II. *On Sugar:*

1. Generally:

Witness would wish to see sugar and every other article of domestic industry protected, *Tucker* 1281—In saying "domestic industry," witness includes India and our colonies as integral parts of the British empire, *ib.*—Witness is in favour of a proper amount of protection to all interests, *Tollemache* 8062-8067—The only help for the colonies is extensive immigration and protection, *Naghten* 8838-8854—The British agricultural interest is placed in a very false position by the present rate of duties levied on articles the produce of the soil of this country, *Gray* 9326-9328—How far there would be any danger in giving too great a stimulus by protection to the cultivation of sugar to the neglect of other products; at all events, the country must make their election between free and slave-grown produce, *Higgins* 9972-9982—The reason the colonial planter sends all his sugar to this market, and does not take the choice of the markets, is that, this is a protected market, *Woodhouse* 12243-12245—Either protection must be given, or the West India colonies must be lost, *Borthwick* 12957—Witness does not consider the Mauritius entitled to protection in the way of differential duty as a set off against the enormous charges on the colonists, *Hawes* 16500-16505.

2. Abandonment of Estates, and Diminution of the Cultivation of Sugar, which must result from the withdrawal of all Protection:

Reasons for forming the opinion that taking away all protection, as will be the case in 1851, from sugar produced in India or in foreign countries, will prevent the cultivation of all land for sugar by Europeans in India, *Hardman* 801 *et seq.* 889-891—Evidence showing the great evils that will result from this, *ib.* 810-816—Without a protective duty in this country in favour of sugar the produce of India, against sugar the produce of foreign countries, it will be impossible to secure the continued importation

Reports, 1847-48—continued.

PROTECTIVE DUTY—continued.

II. On Sugar—continued.

2. Abandonment of Estates, and Diminution of Cultivation, &c.—continued.

importation of sugar from India to this country, *Alexander* 1854-1863. 1866-1870-1899—Difficulty of fixing the amount of protective duty, *ib.* 1856—Present amount of protection which the manufacturer has in India, *ib.* 1882-1892—There is no doubt that without protection the supply of free-labour sugar will fall off, more particularly in India and the Mauritius, *ib.* 1900-1908. 1914-1919—When the present protection is withdrawn, as will be the case in 1851, the shipments of sugar to this country must very much diminish, *ib.* 1948, 1949. 1997-1999.

If protection be entirely taken away, nothing will enable our colonies to compete with the slave colonies, *Hunter* 2613-2618—Without protection it will not be possible for any set of proprietors to continue the cultivation of sugar in the Mauritius for exportation, *Blyth* 3190-3193—Without a moderate protection the Mauritius under any circumstances could not compete with slave grown sugar, *Chapman* 3685, 3686—Unless such protection be given a large proportion of the estates will go out of sugar cultivation, *Greene* 6157-6162—Protection is required to enable the cultivation of sugar to be carried on in Antigua, *Pell* 9211-9215.

3. Probable Benefits which would arise to the Colonies from Protection; Suggestions and Opinions as to the Amount of Protection necessary:

With a differential duty of 10 s. per cwt. the colony of the Mauritius, with really efficient labour, could produce sugar profitably to a very large amount, *Hunter* 2431, 2432. 2667-2669—Nothing but the restoration of protection will enable the sugar cultivators in the Mauritius to go on with the culture; the amount at which witness puts the protection is 10 l. a ton, or 1 d. a pound, *ib.* 2687, 2688—Reasons for witness fixing upon 10 s. per cwt. as a sufficient protective duty, *Blyth* 3212-3255—If there were an entire protection from foreign sugar the Mauritius could in the long run compete with India, *Sir G. Larpent* 4006—The only chance for the Mauritius is not by making any alteration of the present duty, but by letting it remain as it is, *ib.* 4021.

The result of witness's deliberations as to what is to be done for the Mauritius is, that they should have a protection of 1 d. a pound, *Guthrie* 4089-4106—A uniform rate of protection would benefit the whole of the estates in the Mauritius, good, bad, and indifferent, *ib.* 4165-4183—The protection should be a protection against all foreign sugar; the questions of slave sugar and other sugar come so close together that it is difficult to draw a distinction, *ib.* 4213—Ten shillings per cwt. protection would be sufficient to induce the planters of Jamaica to go on with the cultivation; witness's opinion is that it would save them, *Lord Howard de Walden* 4592-4595—The only system that would enable witness to recover his estates would be a system of protection; witness would suggest a protection of 10 s. per cwt., *Price* 5020, 5021—If the protection were accompanied by such measures as would give them a supply of labour in Jamaica at 2 d. or 4 d. a day, the planters might get out of their difficulties, *ib.* 5022-5028.

By protection, accompanied by good industrial laws, credit might be restored, machinery might then be obtained, and the cost of production lessened, *Moody* 5509-5511—Amount of protection necessary to establish the credit of our West India colonies and place them in a position to compete with foreign colonies, *ib.* 5551-5561—Without protection it is impossible that the free labour of the British colonies can compete with the slave labour and slave trading of Cuba and Brazil; the protection should not be less than 10 s. per cwt., *Greene* 6155-6157. 6163, 6164—Without an actual protection of 10 s. it will not be possible for the West Indies to continue their cultivation, *ib.* 6270-6304—Amount of protection witness considers necessary, *Dummett* 7444-7447—Witness considers that nothing short of a differential duty of 11 s. per cwt. will remunerate the planter in Barbados, *ib.* 7512.

To put the West India planter and the foreigner on an equality there should be a greater difference of duty, *Crosley* 7767-7771—Protection against slave-labour sugar is necessary, but it would not be desirable to give over-protection, as it might lead to negligence and abuse, *Tollemache* 7979-7997—Witness would say that the cultivation of Antigua could not go on with a less protection than 10 s. a cwt.; though possibly Mr. Tollemache's individual estates, which are above the standard, might do so, *Shand* 8206-8211—No immigration of labour would enable the planters of Antigua, without protection, to compete with slave-grown sugar, *Sir W. Codrington* 8453-8457—Way in which a 10 s. protection would now go far to relieve the present distress, notwithstanding that in 1832 they had a much greater protection than 10 s., having full control over the labour and the monopoly of the English market, which only gave them 2½ per cent. upon their capital, *Lordale* 9707-9731—If the present prices continue, it would be quite inadequate to continue merely the present amount of protection of 6 s., *Higgins* 9986, 9987—A protection of 10 s. a cwt. against all foreign sugar, guaranteed for ten years, coupled with restricted access to the coast of Africa for free labourers, would set the British planters upon their legs again, *Higgins* 10190, 10191.

Reports, 1847-48—continued.

PROTECTIVE DUTY—continued.

II. On Sugar—continued.

3. Probable Benefits to the Colonies from Protection, &c.—continued.

Evidence as to the benefit which witness would expect to arise from a protective duty of 10 s. a cwt., *Marryat* 10564-10581—Reasons for forming the opinion that a protective duty of 10 s. 8 d. is necessary as against foreign sugar, *Cruikshank* 10735-10740—Witness does not consider that the protection which has been generally suggested, that is, 10 s. a cwt., to continue for a period of ten years, would be for the real advantage of the West Indies, *Barkly* 10846 *et seq.*—Especially if it were imposed with a view of bringing them into competition with slave labour at the end of that period, *ib.* 10846—The probable effect of such protection would be such an increase of cultivation as would tend permanently to raise wages instead of bringing about a reduction, which is at the present time required, *ib.* 10846 *et seq.* 10980-10999.

The island of Barbados cannot compete with foreign sugar-growing countries without protection, *Carrington* 11217—Amount of protection witness considers necessary, *ib.* 11218-11223. 11252-11256. 11265-11275—Reference to the statement made by Mr. McGregor, that a 10 s. differential duty ought to exist in favour of free sugars, *Shaw* 11571—Witness does not consider that a 10 s. protection would be sufficient; nothing short of 15 s. would be of any use, *Ranken* 12472-12478—No protection under 14 s. would be at all beneficial; data upon which witness forms his calculations as to this being the amount of protection required, *Borthwick* 13010-13017—The only remedy witness can suggest to alleviate the distress is a protection against the admission of slave-grown sugar, *Scott* 13435. 13494-13506—A protection of 10 s. a cwt. would probably lead to a rise in the wages in the colonies, and consequently the proprietor would not reap the whole of the benefit, *Pickwood* 14090-14096.

4. How far any Protection which may be afforded as against Foreign Sugar need be permanent :

Resolution agreed to by the Committee, that it is their opinion that the British possessions have capabilities for the supply of sugar far exceeding the probable consumption of the United Kingdom, *Rep.* viii. p. 3—And that their ultimate prosperity must therefore depend upon the means of successful competition with foreign producers, rather than upon any permanent protection of their produce in the British market, *ib.*—Opinion of the Committee that a share of the advantages of a higher price in this market by the foreign producer is a consequence inseparable from the policy of reduced protection, established by the changes in the sugar duties by the Acts of 1844, 1845. and 1846, *ib.* 4—As there are great difficulties in the way of securing an ample supply of labour, and enacting laws against vagrancy and squatting, and as considerable time must elapse before any measures can be adopted to remedy these evils, the Committee recommend a differential duty of 10 s. per cwt. in favour of sugar the produce of British possessions, for a period of six years, *ib.*—The Committee being of opinion that this temporary encouragement would have the effect of preventing the immediate, and otherwise inevitable, abandonment of the majority of the estates, and secure time for bringing into operation the intended measures of relief, *ib.*

Opinion that a guaranteed protection of 10 s. per cwt. for seven years would lead parties to re-invest their capital, and that the trade of the colonies would revive, *Blyth* 3373-3390—At the present time the Mauritius could not do without a protection of 10 s. per cwt., which, if things went on prosperously for two or three years, might probably then be reduced, *Chapman* 3687-3692—Evidence in favour of a protective duty of 10 s. per cwt. for three years, *ib.* 3847 *et seq.*—How far such a system would be likely to lead to over-production, and so reduce the price of sugar that after all such protection would be of no material advantage to the planter, *ib.* 3847-3870. 3876-3886—It would not be necessary that the 10 s. protection proposed by witness should be continued for any number of years, *Price* 5022—Nothing will save the island of Jamaica but a protective duty until such time as wages shall be brought to a level that will enable the planters to compete with slave-grown sugar, *ib.* 5141-5149. 5153-5160. 5192-5197—This duty should be fixed at 10 s. per cwt., *ib.* 5141-5149. 5153-5160—Amount of protection witness considers necessary in order to encourage the British planter; number of years for which such protection would most likely be required, *Moddy* 5512-5514—Witness's remedy is a temporary protection, accompanied with a system of importing labour, and measures for regulating that labour, *ib.* 5728—Doubts as to whether a 10 s. protection for seven years to come, against slave-grown sugar, would produce the desired effect of efficiently maintaining the cultivation of our sugar colonies, *Colville* 5848-5851—Any protection to be effectual must be permanent and not temporary, *ib.* 6060, 6061; *Dummett* 7452-7454—It would not be worth while to import labourers unless a continued protection could be obtained, *Sir W. Codrington* 8511, 8512.

A temporary and not a permanent protection is the object which the colonists ought to look to the most, as it is the one they are most likely to get; whether it would now restore

Reports, 1847-48—continued.

PROTECTIVE DUTY—continued.

II. On Sugar—continued.

4. How far any Protection against Foreign Sugar, &c.—continued.

restore any great degree of confidence is doubtful, *Higgins* 10142-10149—It is decidedly necessary that there must be a differential duty to some amount adopted for a certain period; the sugar cultivation of the colonies cannot be continued without it, *Barkly* 10846—Witness's suggestion is a 10 s. protection for the next two years, *ib.* 10846-10870. 10980-10999—This would enable the planters to go on with the cultivation of the canes now on the ground, but would not lead to any increase in the extent of cane cultivation, *ib.* 10849-10870. 10980-10999—And witness's opinion is that during this period the wages of labour might be reduced, and most probably such reduction would then be permanent, *ib.* 10849-10874. 10980-10999.

Protection would be a remedy calculated to relieve this distress of the West India colonies; as regards this, witness would merely propose the suspension of further reduction for a period of three years, *Innes* 13386-13393—This period would afford the Government an opportunity of supplying the means which witness thinks would enable the planters to do without protection, *ib.* 13394-13397. 13413-13415—The West Indies require protection till such time as they are put in a position to compete with other countries; the best way of bringing this about would be by free immigration, *Miles* 13585-13599. 13674-13676—A differential duty of 10 s. per cwt. in favour of our colonies would not benefit the proprietors of estates unless it were permanent, *Pickwood* 13889-13902. 13948-13957. 14090-14096.

5. Opinions that no Parliamentary Interference would now restore Confidence as regards the Colonies :

A great portion of the British capital invested in the sugar cultivation was stimulated to that investment by a confidence in the stability of the commercial policy of Great Britain, *Alexander* 2000, 2001—In extending their cultivation the planters of the Mauritius looked forward to the declaration of Sir Robert Peel, that there would be always a certain protection against foreign free-labour sugar, *Hunter* 2751-2755. 2780-2801—The West Indies have a just claim for protection, having invested their capital in the colonies on the faith of the laws of the mother country, *Colville* 6065, 6066—Confidence in Parliament has been so entirely destroyed, that there is no Act which could be passed that would inspire the colonists with the slightest degree of confidence, *Innes* 13389—Whatever Parliament might enact with regard to protection, it would inspire no confidence, and it would be pretty much as if no such Act had passed, *ib.* 13390.

6. Papers laid before the Committee :

Despatch from Governor Sir C. E. Grey, dated 21 September 1847, stating that the low price of sugar in the London market threatens many of the planters with ruin, and that there are indications of a movement in favour of a return to the principle of protection, *Rep.* iii. App. 355—Despatch from Earl Grey in reply, dated 30 October 1847, lamenting the difficulties of the planters, but stating the impossibility of a return to their former protection; and also stating that the duty paid in this country is not a burden upon the colonists, *ib.* 356.

See also *Abandonment of Estates*, 1. *Ad-valorem Duties*. *Beet-root Sugar*.
Bourbon, Isle of. *Brazil*, 2. *Ceylon*. *Classification Duties*. *Coffee*, 1. 5.
Commercial Policy. *Cuba*, 3. *Danish Colonies*. *Differential Duties*, 2.
Free Trade. *Mauritius*, 4. *Over-production*. *Prices*, 11. *Rice*.
Slave-grown Sugar. *Supply of Sugar*.

Provision Grounds :

British Guiana.—Ordinance for promoting the industry of the manumitted slaves, by a tax on all provision grounds in British Guiana, and by an equivalent duty on all provisions imported into the colony, *Rep.* iv. App. 160, 161.

Grenada.—In Grenada the negroes have as much provision ground as they require, *Hankey* 6948-6953.

Jamaica.—The labourers in Jamaica are independent, by reason of having their own provision grounds, and provisions to sell at a high price, *Dickon* 6516, 6517—The means that witness would suggest for making these labourers work more continuously would be by the planters growing their own provisions, *ib.* 6518-6530. 6535-6541. 6761-6770. 6837-6849—The provision grounds of the negroes are generally independent holdings, *ib.* 6820-6824—At the time the labourer is required, that is to plant the canes, when the rain comes on, he betakes himself to the cultivation of his own provision ground, *Geddes* 8952, 8953. 8956.

Provisions :

Ceylon.—If the duties on the import of articles of food were removed, the relief to the planters would be very great, *Christian* 14763, 14764.

Mauritius.—The reason why the greater part of the provisions of the island of Mauritius are imported, is that the island will not produce rice in any quantity, *Hunter* 2680-2682. 2844—And the grasses are not congenial to the life of cattle, *ib.*—Unsuccessful attempts made to cultivate other articles besides sugar in the island, *ib.* 2844—There was still a hope at the end of last year that Government would, at the meeting of Parliament, do something for the Mauritius, *Blyth* 3085—On the re-assembling of Parliament on the 3d February, the Government made a declaration of its policy with regard to the colonies, *ib.* 3086—In consequence of this declaration, witness's firm wrote by the overland mail of 27 February, withdrawing their credits previously existing in Bengal, under which their correspondents sent rice and other grain to the Mauritius, on joint account with witness's house, *ib.* 3087. 3427—They also stopped the advances to native merchants to send down rice, *ib.*—Probable effect of these instructions on the means of subsistence of the colonists; how far this Government or the East India Company have prepared for the anticipated deficiency, *ib.* 3092-3097. 3427—High price of provisions in the Mauritius; the soil is not suited to the cultivation of grain, *ib.* 3208-3211. 3434, 3435.

West India Colonies.—The reduction of duties on all articles of provision, so as to render the people less dependent upon home-grown provisions, would tend to make labour more continuous and more plentiful, *Lord Howard de Walden* 4611—Effect of the duty on the importation of food in advancing the price of it, *Moody* 5624-5638—The duties upon the importation of food into the colonies do not operate at all in the way of oppression to the consumer, *Colville* 5902-5916—The price of provisions in British Guiana varies; no corn is grown except a little Indian corn; bread is used, but is made of imported flour, *Barkly* 11050-11056—It has been found to be cheaper to import provisions from America in order to feed the labouring population, than to grow them in Barbados, *Dummett* 7436-7439—Particulars as to the grain or corn produce of Venezuela; general food of the inhabitants, *Syers* 14920-14924.

See also *Import Duties.* *Indian Corn.* *Rice.*

Public Officers. See *Salaries.*

Public Works. See *Irrigation, III.* *Loans.*

Q.

Quality of Sugar. How far sugar deteriorates in quality in the voyage from India, *Hardman* 851-870—Quality of the sugars exported from the Mauritius, *Chapman* 3649-3654—There has been a deterioration of the quality of British sugar since the emancipation; this inferiority may be attributed to the want of labour, *Scott* 5318-5321—The result of obtaining a sufficient supply of labour would be that a better quality of sugar would be produced at the same price as inferior sugar is now produced, *Moody* 5724-5726—Generally speaking, a better quality of sugar was made in the West Indies during slavery than is now made, *Greene* 6186, 6187—How far lowering the standard would tend to induce the colonists to send an inferior quality of sugar, *Woodhouse* 12286-12294—This is not the case with the Mauritius sugar, *Browne* 12647, 12648—No improvement as regards the colour and quality of West India sugar has taken place within the last 20 years, *ib.* 12646. 12649—Testing is the only safe way of determining the quality of sugar, *ib.* 12650.

See also *Differential Duties, 2.* *Madras.* *Penang Sugar.* *Refining Sugar.*
Santa Cruz.

R.

Raffles, Sir Stamford. See *Java.*

Railways :

Cuba.—Particulars relative to the construction and extent of railways in Cuba, *Harbottle* 15706-15712. 15738-15756.

Demerara.—A railway has been projected in Demerara, and its construction to a certain extent proceeded with, but from the state of discredit into which the colony has been thrown by the low price of sugar, the works are at a stand-still, *Barkly* 11075-11078—Witness believing that there was a certain sum at the disposal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer which might have been applicable for this railway, waited upon him on the subject; unsuccessful result of his application, *ib.* 11079, 11080.

Jamaica.—

Reports, 1847-48—continued.

Railways—continued.

Jamaica.—Witness is no advocate either for tramways or railroads on each individual estate, *Dickon* 6566-6572.—See also *Irish Labourers*.

Rajahmundry District (Madras). Memorandum on sugar cultivation in Rajahmundry, Madras, drawn up 1 June 1844, by Captain A. Cotton, civil engineer, first division, *Prideaux* 1338-1343, *Rep.* i. p. 127-130.—See also *Madras*.

Ranken, Dr. William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is deputed by a committee of the inhabitants of the colony of Demerara to give evidence before this Committee, and is furnished with documents from the colony for that purpose, 12334-12337.—Statement generally of the case witness wishes to lay before the Committee, 12338 *et seq.*—There has been a great change in the social condition of the colony ever since Mr. Canning's Resolutions were promulgated there in 1823; 12338.—Nature of the evils which resulted from the promulgation of these Resolutions, *ib.*—The compulsory Manumission Bill passed in 1829 had also a prejudicial effect, *ib.*—The next evil step was the Nine Hours' Labour Bill in 1831, which deprived the planter of one-seventh part of the labour he considered himself entitled to without compensation, *ib.*—Then there was the great measure of emancipation, which came into force in August 1834; 12338, 12339.—The prices of produce happened to rise about that time, and were maintained during the period of apprenticeship, 12339.

In 1838 apprenticeship was abruptly and unexpectedly terminated, 12340.—From this period the labourers would not work as they did before, *ib.*—And Government, unfortunately, to add to the loss occasioned by this circumstance, passed an Order in Council disallowing all contracts made out of the colony, *ib.*—Evidence generally as to the introduction of immigrants into the colony from 1834 to 1838; this introduction was beneficial to the colony, 12341-12352.—Statement of facts showing the inadequacy of the compensation which was paid under the Act of Emancipation, 12353-12389.—The non-resident proprietors have improved their estates more than the resident proprietors; the outlays for the importation of labour have been made chiefly by non-resident proprietors; the Ordinance of 1838 put a stop to this importation, 12390-12399.—How far this measure had a retrospective effect with regard to the contracts which had already been entered into, 12400-12407.

The remedy witness has to suggest on behalf of the colony is protection, 12408 *et seq.*—The colonists complain very much, and with great reason, that the Sugar Duty Bill of 1846 has caused the grievances brought about by the Emancipation Act to fall upon them with increased severity, *ib.*—It has depreciated their produce 40 per cent., 12408.—What the colonists wish for is protection against the slave sugar grower, and also immigration from Africa, *ib.*—Evidence in detail relative to the immigration which has already taken place into Demerara; inconveniences arising from the short contracts, 12408-12438.—Evidence generally relative to wages in Demerara; unsuccessful attempt made lately to reduce the rate of wages, 12439-12442. 12447-12449.—In any future importation of immigrants the colonists would have no objection to be put under an obligation to import as many women as men from the coast of Africa, 12443-12446.

Up to the period of the last intelligence the attempt to reduce wages in the colony of Demerara had entirely failed with the native population, 12450.—There were a few of the immigrant population employed, but it is stated that the great body of them were intimidated by the Creole population, 12451, 12452.—Whether the evidence given by Mr. Barkly that the colony had been saved to a great extent by the immigrant population is correct, remains yet to be seen, 12453-12469.—If no protection be afforded the whole of the estates in Demerara must in time go out of cultivation, 12470-12473.—Witness does not consider that a 10*s.* protection would be sufficient; nothing short of 15*s.* would be of any use, 12472-12480.

A protection is required equal to the difference between the present cost of production and the cost during slavery, as it is against slave-grown sugar that the planters have to contend, 12473.—There should also be at the same time free access to the coast of Africa for labourers, 12475-12480.—Witness would say that we should not be so much afraid of other countries which are not cultivated by slave labour, as we should be of the competition with Porto Rico, Cuba, and Brazil, 12481-12487.—Unrestricted access to the coast of Africa would not be likely to lead to a revival of the slave trade, 12488-12491. 12511-12515.—The importation of labourers into British Guiana which has already taken place, has not had the effect of lowering wages, 12492-12499.

The moral character of the negroes in British Guiana has deteriorated since 1838; 12505-12510.—A considerable number of estates will necessarily go out of cultivation unless some relief be afforded, 12516-12521.—There is no objection to leaving the importation of Europeans perfectly unrestricted, 12522-12526.—A great deal has been done in Demerara with reference to the improvement of the manufacture of sugar, and the abridgement of the use of manual labour, 12534-12539.—The compensation given to the colonists of British Guiana was quite inadequate, 12540-12544.—How far the

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Ranken, Dr. William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

present relation and understanding that exists between the labourers and their employers might be placed upon a better footing, 12547—Complaint made by the inhabitants of British Guiana of the extension of the taxation; body which originates the suggestions for taxation; mode in which the taxation and expenditure are carried out, 12552-12580. 12586-12589.

Raw Grain Spirits. Letter and papers relative to raw grain spirits, *Rep.* viii. *App.* 12.

See also *Malt Spirits.* *Spirits.*

Raw Silk. See *Remittances from India.*

Raymond, John George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Was in the Mauritius 10 years; was inspector of distilleries; arrived in Europe in September 1847; 2118-2121—Is well acquainted with the population of the Mauritius, 2122—There is no morality at all among the coolie population of the island, 2123. 2298-2305—Owing to the paucity of Indian women and the dislike the negro women entertain for the Indians, they commit the most revolting crimes, 2124-2148. 2298-2305—They are much addicted to intoxication, 2125—They are also subject to very many diseases; mode in which they are treated when sick, 2126-2128—Impossibility of confining them to the hospitals from the want of proper hospital regulations; spread of disease consequent thereon, 2128, 2129. 2148.

The number of coolies imported into the Mauritius has been from 90,000 to 93,000; 2130-2148—Depraved character of many of this number, 2131-2133. 2148—When witness left the island in 1847, at least 20,000 of them were vagabonds, 2131-2141. 2148. 2306-2311—Number who have deserted their employers and turned thieves, or left the island before the term of their service was completed, 2133-2141—The expense of importing them has consequently been lost to the island, 2133-2141—Disadvantages which the planters labour under in the cultivation of their estates, and in the employment of these coolies, 2142 *et seq.*

The laws for governing servants are inefficient; they do not allow the engagement of a coolie for a longer period than one year, 2142-2148—Evils arising in consequence, 2143-2148—Such industrial laws should be passed as to secure to the planter a longer period of service, 2146—Summary of the information upon the subject of the coolie population in the Mauritius with which witness's residence in the island has furnished him, 2148 *et seq.*—Causes to which the poverty of the Mauritius and its bankruptcy may, in a great measure, be traced, 2153-2163—These causes may be classed under the following heads: viz. the bad faith of the French planter to the English agent or money lender, and the high rate of interest demanded of the former by the latter; the limited knowledge which the present governor has of the island; the corruption of many of the magistrates and public officers, and also of the police and inferior custom-house servants; the retail sale of rum; and the inefficient state of the law of master and servant, *ib.*

With contracts for longer periods of service than for one year, say five or seven years, the coolies might become more attached to the soil, 2164-2167. 2312-2321—One of the greatest benefits would be the introduction of a greater number of Indian women, 2165, 2166—Witness has come to the conclusion that Madagascar is the proper source for the supply of labourers to the Mauritius, 2164—The wages of the coolies in the Mauritius are too high for the advantage either of the planter or the labourer, 2168-2175—Hours of labour of the coolies in the Mauritius, 2176, 2177—Relative value, as labourers, of the natives of Bengal, Bombay, and Madras, showing the superiority of the Madrassees, 2178-2186—Evidence as to the number of Chinese in the Mauritius, and as to the labour performed by them, and the mode in which performed, &c., 2187-2200.

Reasons for there being so few Bombay coolies in the Mauritius as compared with the Bengalese, 2202-2205—Number of the original black population of the island who were emancipated; great decrease in the number since, arising from immorality and disease; vagabond habits of a large proportion of the number who remain; great disparity in the sexes, 2206-2222—Small amount of the old population of the Mauritius employed upon the regular sugar plantations, 2223-2228—Estimated number of coolies at present employed in the cultivation of the sugar estates in the island, 2229-2235.

There would be no difficulty in enacting such industrial laws as would prevent squatting and vagabondage, 2236-2240—But it would be necessary to have an efficient police; present inefficient state of this body, 2236-2239—Further evidence showing that Madagascar would be the best source for the supply of labour to the Mauritius, 2241 *et seq.*—This applies particularly to those portions of the population of Madagascar called the Hovahs and Sakalavas, who are a manly and brave people, 2246-2254—The latter might be got in any quantity, and would be but too happy to emigrate, 2255, 2256—Distance of the Isle of Bourbon from the Mauritius; it lies between the Mauritius and Madagascar, 2260, 2261.

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Rectifying Spirits. The Act of 6th Geo. 4, c. 80, s. 35, expressly forbids the business of rectifying being carried on under the same roof with a distillery; previously to that time (1825) they were carried on in unison, *Currie* 8535-8538—Provisions of the Act relative to the having of the distillery and rectifying house separate, *ib.* 8560—In Scotland there is no rectification, the spirits go into immediate consumption; in England they go through the medium of the rectifier, *ib.* 8654-8658—Evidence showing that the necessity which the English distiller is under of sending his spirits to the rectifier constitutes a part of the difference between the case of the English and of the Scotch distiller; how far this applies to the colonial distiller, *ib.* 8660-8676—Grounds upon which the distillers for a very long period resisted the admission of rum to rectification, *ib.* 8673-8676.

The extra expense of rectifying in consequence of the law is put down by different distillers at from 6*d.* to 8*d.*; reasons for forming the opinion that in their trade the distillers have no right to consider the expenses of rectifying at all, *Wood* 14950-14954. 15047-15067. 15083. 15107-15137—Estimate of expenses to which the rectifier is subject in England; to which is added the money value of such expenses on 1,000,000 gallons, *Wood's Ev., Rep. vi. p. 90*—The rectifier has to buy his spirit either from the distiller in England, or from the agents of either the Scotch or Irish houses, *Betts* 15214, 15215—How far the large distillers of London are connected either directly or indirectly with rectifying houses, *ib.* 15249-15252.

Witness does not concur in the evidence that has been given before this Committee that the rectifier experiences no loss in the process of manufacture through which he puts the spirits, to render it suitable to the English market, *Betts* 15278—So far as he is himself concerned, he finds a loss of three a half per cent., *ib.* 15279—Way in which he calculates this loss, *ib.* 15280-15292—Proportion of this loss he attributes to the excise restrictions, *ib.* 15285. 15289-15292—It would be a great advantage to the rectifiers of this country if they were allowed to rectify in bond, and there would be no difficulty in the way as regards the excise regulations, so as to affect the revenue, *ib.* 15293-15299. 15310-15314—It is witness's impression that if this privilege were allowed there would be a very considerable trade with foreign ports, *ib.* 15300-15309—Evidence as to the expense per gallon of rectifying spirits, *Nicholson* 16240-16251.

See also *Bonding Spirits. Distillers. Rum. Spirits.*

Refactionists. See *Cuba*, 2.

Refined Sugar. The refiner gets a drawback on his sugar re-exported, which practically amounts to a bounty on the export of refined sugar, *St. Martin* 11990-11999.

Refining Sugar. Mode of refining the sugar in India; the native manufacture and refining form a distinct branch of the business from that of the cultivation; mode in which undertaken and carried on, *Wray* 340—Reasons why witness cannot admit that the English refiner would labour under a disadvantage if refined sugar were allowed to be imported from India at the same rate of duty as common muscovado, the refiner having to pay the same duty on the crude material, *Hardman* 777-784—Respect in which allowing the sugar refiners in this country to manufacture their sugar in bond, and to import it and export it at a common duty, would be giving them a great boon, *ib.* 785-795—Charging a uniform duty on all sugar, and allowing it to be refined in bond, would be no better plan than allowing the different qualities to be at once imported at a uniform duty, *Dowding* 2990-3002—Sugar is now refined in bond for exportation, *ib.* 3025.

A uniform duty on sugars of all kinds, and allowing them to be refined in bond and introduced into consumption would be a very desirable arrangement, *Blyth* 3326-3332. 3404-3413—Evidence generally on the subject of refining sugar in bond, *Scott* 5390-5399—Difference of quality of British colonial sugar and Cuba sugar for refining, *ib.* 5423, 5424—One remedial measure that witness would propose for the West Indies would be that sugar and molasses and syrup should be permitted to be refined in bond for home consumption, subject to the same duty when taken out of bond as the products would if they had been imported from the West Indies, *Colville* 5835—Further reasons in favour of allowing sugar to be refined in bond; it would be practicable to bring the syrup here, *ib.* 6029-6037.

Witness has no great opinion as to allowing refining in bond, *Morton* 6311-6420—The effect of allowing sugar to be refined in bond would be to take away the great disadvantage arising from the various qualities of sugar which come into the market now and enable every sugar to be sold in exact relation to its own intrinsic value, *Cresley* 7718-7737. 7743-7746—The difficulty arising from the different qualities would be best got over by refining them in bond and paying the duty afterwards upon all the products, except the treacle, which is not considered to pay any duty, *ib.* 7742.

There is a premium upon the refiner refining, not in bond, but for consumption, over the refiner who could refine in bond according to the present duties of 2*s.* 0*d.* per cwt., *Cruikshank* 10699—The effect of allowing an optional refining in bond would be that upon sugar, when the extract was very great, the parties would continue to refine

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duty paid, *Woodhouse* 12246—Where it was very small they would refine in bond and the revenue might suffer, *ib.* 12246, 12247—Still if the duty upon the refined sugar were equivalent to the duty upon raw sugar of a fair West India quality, there would be rather an advantage in refiners refining in bond, *ib.* 1224-812258—The revenue might possibly be defrauded by the importation of cane juice into this country, *Browne* 12654-12658—It would be of no advantage to the West India proprietors to refine or purify sugar in the colonies, *ib.* 12659-12663.—See also *Cane Juice*.

Reid, Irving & Co., Messrs. Evidence showing the loss sustained by this house on their estates in the Mauritius, *Blyth* 3131-3146.

Relief. Resolution agreed to by the Committee that the greatest necessity exists for an immediate application of relief, *Rep.* viii. p. 4—The Government have it still in their power to make the Mauritius one of the most flourishing colonies; producing a very large quantity of sugar at a moderate cost, *Chapman* 3605, 3606—Difficulty of finding any remedy for the evils under the existing state of things, *Sir G. Larpent* 4013, 4014—However much the Colonial Office may have led parties connected with the Mauritius to hope that something would be done for them, the results have not been satisfactory, *Guthrie* 4216-4222.

See also <i>Cultivation of Sugar</i> , II. 1.	<i>Distress.</i>	<i>Immigration.</i>	<i>Loans.</i>
<i>Mauritius</i> , 4.	<i>Prices</i> , III. 3.	<i>Protective Duty.</i>	<i>Refining Sugar.</i>
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Religious Instruction (British Ghiana). The spiritual interests of the colony are provided for better than any other part of the world, there is a regular ecclesiastical establishment there of the very first order, *Loxdale* 9767-9778—Expenditure of the colony for ecclesiastical purposes, *Barkly* 11057-11059.—See also *Clergy*.

Remittances from India. If the East Indies cease to export sugar, the remittances to England must be made in bullion, which will eventually be the ruin of India, *Bagshaw* 312—Importance to the East India Company of obtaining their remittances from India at the least possible cost, *Sykes* 623—Anything therefore that impedes the consumption of the products of India, or enhances their value, is detrimental, *ib.*—Evidence as to the mode in which the East India Company make their remittances to this country, *ib.* 659-667—They used, under the former charter, to get them home through the medium of tea; this mode of sending them home has very much diminished now, *ib.* 659, 660—There would be very considerable difficulty attending the sending of these remittances, if they were to lose the export of sugar, which is to the extent of 1,600,000*l.* to 1,700,000*l.*, *ib.* 659—The remittances are now principally made through what are called hypothecations; description as to the manner in which this is accomplished, *ib.* 661-667. 671-676.

Witness estimates the amount of the annual remittances from India to England by the two modes which the company resort to, one by drawing upon India, and the other by remitting from India on bills purchased on hypothecation, at about 3,700,000*l.*, *Tucker* 1240—As regards the annual remittances from the savings and profits of individuals, witness estimates the private tribute at about 500,000*l.*, *ib.* 1241—Rough sketch of the remittance account between India and the mother country, *ib.*—Declared value in India of articles the produce of India, imported into England from Bengal and Bombay, for 1844-45, and from Madras, for 1843-44, *ib.*—This return shows that from Bengal there are drawn by consignments of sugars about 1,450,000*l.*, *ib.* 1242—From Madras, about 31,000*l.*, *ib.* 1243—And from Bombay, about 26,000*l.*, *ib.*

Bombay has not the privilege of importing sugar into this country at the lower rate of duty, *Tucker* 1243—India can only pay the tribute, the political and private debt, by means of her commerce, *ib.* 1244—She must first pay for her imports from other countries; these are chiefly from Great Britain; there is now little import from America or the continent of Europe, *ib.*—Statement of the India imports, showing the amount in value of the imports (exclusive of treasure) into India from Europe, America, and China, for the year 1843-44, *ib.*—China is one of the great channels of Indian remittance to this country; way in which this takes place, *ib.* 1244-1246—Way in which and extent to which the export of rice from India to Mauritius is an indirect means of remittance to England through Mauritius, *ib.* 1247-1250.

If the means of remittance through the Mauritius, and direct to England, by means of Bengal and Madras grown sugars, were to be annihilated, it would strike off a million and a half of the tribute of India, *Tucker* 1251-1253—Or some other means of remittance must be found, which would be extremely difficult, *ib.* 1251—In former times India paid her tribute in a great measure through her cotton manufactures; she exported about 3,000,000*l.*; the case is now reversed, and she imports largely, *ib.* 1254-1256—As regards cotton, India is worse off than she was by nearly six millions sterling a year, *ib.* 1254-1256—One of the chief articles to which she looks to be compensated for this great loss is by turning her attention to the cultivation of sugar, *ib.* 1257, 1258, 1295, 1296—Further evidence as to the mode in which the remittances from India were made previously to the large increase in the exportation of sugar, *ib.* 1303-1314.

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Proportion of the gross revenues of India paid over to England, *Prideaux* 1361—Statement of the gross trade of the three presidencies with the Mauritius, from 1840-41 to 1844-45, showing that a portion of the means of India to pay her remittances to this country arises from this trade, *ib.* 1365-1367—Every article of commerce produced in India, and brought to Europe, is of course important to the remittance operations of the Company, *Melville* 1382—The falling off in the supply of sugar would, no doubt, increase the difficulty of the East India Company's effecting their remittances; *ib.* 1389—Still witness is not prepared to say that it would cause any serious embarrassment to the Company, *ib.* 1389-1392.

Unless the price of sugar rises in this country above what it now is, the merchants in India will be precluded to a great extent from using sugar as a means of remittance, *Alexander* 1818—Extracts from a memorandum drawn up by witness on this subject, showing his views of the present means of remittance, and what the merchants will be obliged to resort to if they are to carry on the trade, *ib.* 1819 *et seq.*—There is an indirect means of remittance to England from India through the rice that goes to the Mauritius, but this is a mere trifle, *ib.* 1844-1846—Disastrous consequences which will ensue to India from the difficulty in which she will be placed in making remittances to England, if the low price of sugar destroy the sugar exporting trade of India, *ib.* 1847—Mode in which the remittances were made from India six or seven years ago, *ib.* 1894—India had raw silk to the extent of nearly a million, and she has been almost entirely deprived of this by the China silk; this has been a terrible loss to her, *ib.*—Sugar took its place for a time, and filled up the gap, *ib.*—If this be taken away it will reduce her means of remittance, and throw her back upon silver, *ib.*—Further evidence as to the connexion between the sugar trade and the remittances from India, with observations generally on her remittances to this country, *ib.* 1991-1996—Letter from Henry St. George Tucker, dated May 3d, 1848, on the subject of the East India Company's remittance of public tribute to England, *Rep.* viii. *App.* 1.

See also *Cotton Cultivation*, II.

Rent of Lands (India). See *Bengal*.

Renting System (Barbados). The progressive improvement of the labouring population of Barbados has arisen from the general introduction of a renting system; detail of the nature of this system and extent to which carried out, *Carrington* 11164-11212. 11234-11241. 11261-11263.

Rents. The effect of any large importation of labour would be to produce rent; there is a very high rent in Barbados at the present time, which island is thickly peopled, *Crawford* 13077-13081. 13083-13085. 13121-13131—Rent of the land fit for sugar cultivation in the Arcot province of the Madras presidency, *Ellis* 15820-15834.

Resident Proprietors (West India Colonies.) It is not to be expected that we can ever have a very large resident proprietary body throughout the West India colonies, *Pickwood* 14106-14112.—See also *Absenteeism*.

Revenue (East India Company). See *Land Tax*. *Madras*. *Remittances from India*.

Revenue (Great Britain). See *Bonding Spirits*. *Distillers*. *Rectifying Spirits*. *Spirits*.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE:

I. *East Indies*:

1. Generally.
2. Ceylon.
3. Mauritius.

II. *West Indies*:

1. Generally.
2. Antigua.
3. Barbados.
4. British Guiana.
5. Cuba.
6. Demerara.
7. Jamaica.
8. Trinidad.
9. St. Vincent.

I. *East Indies*:

1. Generally:

Evidence showing that a very large amount of the revenue of India makes its way to this country, *Bagshaw* 313-316—Paper drawn up by witness, showing the progress of the revenue of the East India Company in different decennial periods from 1809-10 to 1839-40;

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REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE—continued.

1. *East Indies*—1. Generally—continued.

1839-40; principles upon which this paper has been drawn up, *Sykes* 612—Statement of the gross amount of revenue of each presidency in the last period, that is 1839-40, showing the increase since 1809-10, *ib.* 613—In consequence of expensive wars, the expenditure of India has for some years past exceeded its revenue; hope entertained that in 1848-49, they will be equalized, *Tucker* 1285.

2. Ceylon:

Increase in the expenditure of the island since 1841; up to 1845 the revenue was also increasing, but since that it has been falling off, *Christian* 14346-14358—The revenue is raised in a great degree from a land-tax upon the rice land and upon imported rice, and also upon salt fish, *ib.* 14359-14364. 14706-14714. 11734-14747—The revenue from the pearl fisheries has entirely ceased, *ib.* 14432, 14433—There is very little revenue from the cinnamon lands, *ib.* 14434, 14435—Since 1835 the government have lost three great sources of revenue; they have lost the pearls, the cinnamon gardens, and they have lost their revenue from the sale of waste lands, *ib.* 14538, 14539—Evidence generally as to the revenue and expenditure of the island of Ceylon; large expenditure of the colony; deficiency of the revenue to meet this expenditure, *Anstruther* 16706-16723. 16728—It must either be paid by the British Government or the colony must be put in the Gazette, *ib.*

There is no doubt the expenditure of the colony might be very much reduced; the government would not be worse administered than it now is at half the cost, *Anstruther* 16723-16727. 16740-16748—Up to this last year Ceylon presented a singular instance of a British colony bearing her own expenses, *ib.* 16738—Great reduction which might be made in the military establishment of the island, *ib.* 16740-16743—Further evidence as to the expenditure of the colony, *ib.* 16814-16821—Abstract of the receipts and disbursements of the government of Ceylon for the year ended 30 June 1847, *Anstruther's Ev., Rep.* vii. p. 149—Account of the revenue and expenditure of Ceylon for the year ended 30 June 1847, *Rep.* viii. App. 83.

3. Mauritius:

Complaints of the taxes in the Mauritius; registration fee on the transfer of property; complaints of the expenditure of the colony; charge for the colonial allowance to troops; charge for keeping up the garrisons of the island, especially Seychelles, *Chapman* 3543-3551—Entire revenue of the island for 1847 including the tax on immigration, *ib.* 3552, 3553—The present machine of government is too cumbersome and expensive by one half, *ib.* 3554, 3555—Present expense of maintaining the police; inefficiency of this body; an efficient police might be kept up at half the present expense, *ib.* 3556-3559—Further evidence as to the expenditure and taxation of the island; wants of the island; large reduction which might be made in the expenditure, *ib.* 3708-3719.

It was in 1828 that the island become enabled to pay the expenses of its own government, *Kelsey* 4311—Up to that time very large sums had been paid by the Home Treasury; account of the sums paid in each year from 1822 to 1828, *ib.* 4311-4317—The whole charge incurred by Great Britain on account of the colony, in aid of the revenues (exclusive of the King's pay, &c. to the troops issued by the military commissariat) is shown by the bills drawn in each year on the Home Treasury since 1822, *ib.* 4313—From 1828 up to the present time the colony has ceased to be a burden to the mother country, with the exception of the year 1832, when, in consequence of great pecuniary distress, the taxes were unpaid, and fell into arrear, and in that year 30,000*l.* were drawn, *ib.* 4313-4326—How far the mercantile interests are fairly represented in the legislative council of the island; the members are selected by the government, and witness considers, with great impartiality, *ib.* 4318-4320. 4322—The council has always been party to the various tax ordinances under which the revenues of the island have been raised, *ib.* 4321, 4322—A large sum of the money raised under these tax ordinances has been applied to immigration, *ib.* 4323-4325. 4332-4352.

Complaints have been made of the heavy expenditure of the colony; nature and extent of the control of the Colonial Office over the expenditure of the Mauritius, *Hawes* 16259. 16327-16342—Further evidence as to the heavy expenditure of the Mauritius, and as to the complaints made by the colonists to the Home Government on the subject, *ib.* 16327-16342—A very large part of the expenditure of the colony has been in immigration from India, *ib.* 16343-16347—Further evidence as to the enormous expenditure of the colony; reference to some of the extraordinary expenses of the colony, *ib.* 16454-16460—Importance of the Mauritius as a British possession; how far this fact is a justification of the claim of the planters that all the extra expenses should be charged to the Imperial Government and not on the planters, *ib.* 16460-16466.

Copy of despatch from Governor Sir William Gomm to Earl Grey, dated 14 December 1847, enclosing the report of the financial committee on the expenditure of the colony, and the reduction thereof, *Rep.* vii. App. 332—Despatch from Earl Grey in reply, dated 4th April 1848, *ib.* 340—Return of the amount of all rates, taxes, and dues, public and parochial, including the amount expended towards the maintenance of schools and various church establishments for the years 1834, 1838, and 1846, *Rep.* viii. App. 45-47.

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II. West Indies :

1. Generally :

The colonies complain that whenever they have attempted a retrenchment in the expenditure upon any extensive scale, Government has uniformly opposed it, *Shaw* 11655-11663, 11667-11669—A great reduction might be made in the expenditure of the West India islands, especially in Jamaica, *ib.* 11750-11755—Returns of the amount derived from all taxes, rates, and dues, public and parochial, including the amount expended towards the maintenance of schools and various church establishments in the several West India islands and the Mauritius, for the years 1823, 1834, 1838, and 1846, *Rep.* viii. *App.* 32 *et seq.*

2. Antigua :

Particulars relative to the expenditure of Antigua, *Wolley* 11439-11452.

3. Barbados :

The taxation of the island of Barbados is very uncertain and irregular, *Best* 11306—The Legislature put on taxes according to their wants, *ib.*—The expenses of the island have multiplied in various ways to a very great degree since emancipation ; a reduction might be made in the colonial charges, especially as regards the stipendiary magistrates, *ib.* 11307-11314—The expenditure as regards the ecclesiastical establishment in Barbados is very heavy, *ib.* 11324-11331. 11350.

4. British Guiana :

Progressive increase in the annual estimates for the colony ; amount of the estimates for the public service of British Guiana for each year from 1830 to 1847, both inclusive, *Loxdale* 9549-9556—The entire expense of the colony, except the bishop and stipendiary magistrates, and the collector of customs, are paid out of the revenue of the colony, *ib.* 9566-9572—Enormous increase in the expenditure of British Guiana since 1823, *Hawes* 16507-16523, 16526-16529—Copy of despatch from Governor Light to Earl Grey, dated 18. January 1848, transmitting a petition addressed to the Governor and Court of Policy against the civil list and general expenses of the colony, *Rep.* vii. *App.* 252.

5. Cuba :

Revenue and expenditure of the island of Cuba ; the revenue is obtained by customs duties on imports and exports and by a capitation tax upon negroes, *Harbottle* 15431-15437, 15581-15582—The surplus revenue is remitted to Spain, *ib.* 15438, 15439.

6. Demerara :

The colonial expenditure of the island has much increased of late years, while the profits of the planters have fallen off, *Naghten* 8855-8858.

7. Jamaica :

The expenses of the whole of the establishment in Jamaica are infinitely too high, and ought to be reduced ; the salaries of all the officers are too high, *Lord Howard de Walden* 4552-4558—Mode in which the revenue of the island of Jamaica is raised, *Moody* 5624-5638—If prices continue as they are all but the best estates must go out of cultivation immediately, *Colville* 5774—If this should be the case, the revenue of the island must fail, as the remaining estates would not be able to pay sufficient taxes to carry on the government, *ib.* 5775—And public credit would fall as low as private credit now is ; public credit is very low, *ib.* 5776—Instances in which Government has advertised for loans ; and has not been able to get any bids, *ib.* 5771-5781—Jamaica and the other colonies will have to fall back on the mother country to support their public institutions if things remain in their present position, *ib.* 5782, 5783.

Statement of the annual colonial expenditure of the island of Jamaica from 1843 to 1846, both inclusive, *Colville* 5784, 5785—How far any relief might be afforded to the island by reducing this expenditure, *ib.* 5786 *et seq.*—If things go on as they now are, the island of Jamaica is not likely to find a revenue to meet its expenditure, *Geddes* 9020-9023—Everything at the present moment indicates the most rapid decay, *ib.* 9023—With the cessation of trade and the cessation of cultivation, no considerable revenue can be raised from the island ; excessive expenditure of the island ; extent to which it might be reduced, *Scott* 13443-13452, 13469-13476, 13507, 13508—Return of the amount derived from all rates, dues, and taxes, public and parochial, including the amount expended towards the maintenance of schools, and various church establishments, for the years 1823, 1834, 1838, and 1846, *Rep.* viii. *App.* 42-45.

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II. *West Indies*—continued.8. *Trinidad* :

The taxation of the colony has more than doubled since emancipation; estimated revenue and expenditure of the colony of Trinidad for the year 1848, *Marryat* 10383-10402—At present prices the profits of the island will not continue to meet its expenditure, 10403.

9. *St. Vincent* :

Increase of the colonial expenditure of *St. Vincent* since emancipation; mode in which the taxation of *St. Vincent* is raised, *Wolley* 11431-11438. 11486-11489.

See also *Brazil*, 2. *British Guiana*, 1. *Ceylon*. *Clergy* (*Jamaica*). *Export Duties*. *Import Duties*. *Land Tax*, 2, 3. *Mauritius*, 5.

Rice. It is not necessary that the duties on rice should be classified, *Woodhouse* 12272-12276—As it is not to be hoped that Government will do anything in the way of protection, the only other thing they can do is to remove the duty on rice, *Anstruther* 16806.

See also *Ceylon*. *Cultivation of Sugar*, II. 1. *Remittances from India*.

Richardson, Charles. (Analysis of his Evidence).—The patent of a process for manufacturing concrete is in witness's name, 11081—Evidence in detail relative to the manufacture of concrete; advantages witness anticipates from the application of his process, 11082-11111—The machine used for the manufacture is very simple and inexpensive; detail of the nature of the apparatus, 11112-11155.

Rio de Janeiro. Comparative shipments of coffee from *Rio de Janeiro*, with its destinations, during the years 1845, 1846, and 1847, *Rep.* viii. *App.* 9—Correspondence respecting the cultivation of slave-grown sugar in *Havannah* and *Rio de Janeiro*, *ib.* 75.

Roads :

Antigua.—The roads in the island are generally good, *Pell* 9184, 9185.

Ceylon.—Promises of making roads and other improvements in the island were given by the government to the coffee planters, *Christian* 14309.

Madras.—Good roads would have the most immediate effect in reducing the cost of producing sugar in *Madras*; how far this subject is now being attended to, *Ellis* 15874-15879.

Trinidad.—The island of *Trinidad* suffers greatly in some parts from the want of roads, *Marryat* 10502-10511—Extract from a report showing the bad state of the roads in *Trinidad*, and the absurdity of the system under which they are managed, *Miles* 13533.

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Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana. Second anniversary Report of the *Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana*, 18 March 1846, comprising a summary of the principal objects which have engaged the society's attention during the past year, with remarks on the various subjects connected with its proceeding, prepared by a committee of the society, *Rep.* iv. p. 62-67.

RUM :

I. *Evidence generally with respect to the Importation and Consumption of, and Duties on, Rum, with Suggestions and Recommendations on the subject.*

II. *Manufacture of, and Trade in, Rum in the East Indies; Duties thereon, &c. :*

1. *Generally.*

2. *In Madras.*

3. *In the Mauritius.*

4. *In Province Wellesley (Straits of Malacca).*

III. *Manufacture of, and Duties on, Rum in the West Indies :*

1. *St. Kitt's.*

2. *St. Vincent.*

I. *Evidence generally with respect to the Importation and Consumption of, and Duties on, Rum, with Suggestions and Recommendations on the subject :*

One remedial measure that witness would propose for the *West India* colonies would be that the duties upon colonial rum and home-made spirits should be equalized; there being at present a distinction of 9d. a gallon, *Colville* 5821-5834—Opinions in favour of

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of the equalization of the spirit duties, *Colville* 6062-6064. 6067-6074—Recommendation of the reduction of duty on rum, *Morton* 6421-6426—Great increase in the importation of rum in 1847, the first year after the duty was reduced, *Cu*rie* 8625, 8626—Up to that time there was an absolutely prohibitory duty in Scotland and Ireland, *ib.* 8627.

Duty on rum in England, which leaves a differential duty in England against the malt distiller in Scotland of 7½*d.*; this is also the case as regards Ireland, *Gray* 9238-9241—In Scotland they have an advantage of one penny in the duty to set against the Excise restrictions, *ib.* 9242—Consumption of rum in Scotland; falling off therein of late years; causes thereof; duty on rum at various periods; price of rum in Scotland, as compared with malt spirits, *ib.* 9350-9370—Consumption of rum in Scotland during the last three or four years, compared with that of home-made spirits, *ib.* 9371. 9424—The high duty on rum has had the effect of keeping the genuine spirit from the Scotch market, by causing the circulation of a mixture of grain spirit with rum, which has been sold as rum; this of course has been to the prejudice of rum, *ib.* 9371-9373.

How far there is any export duty on rum in the West Indies, *Barkly* 10887—The colonies complain of the duties upon their rum, *Shaw* 11655—Rum is an article imported from our colonies which pays an *ad valorem* duty, *Woodhouse* 12280-12285—Alterations which have been made in the rum duties, as compared with the rates of duty charged upon spirits in the three kingdoms, *Wood* 14955, 14956—Account of the quantity of rum that paid duty for home consumption in England, Scotland, and Ireland in the two years ending 5 January 1848, *ib.* 14958—Quantities of colonial spirits (rum) charged; rates and amount of duty from 1800 to 1845 inclusive, *Wood's Ev. Rep.* vi. p. 93—Very little rum is rectified in the distilleries in this country, *Wood* 14977-14979—It is allowed by law, but the difficulties of rectifying it preclude its being used for the purpose of manufacturing spirits of wine, or other over-proof spirits, *ib.* 14979-14981—Quantity of rum admitted for rectification from 1843 to 1847 inclusive, *ib.* 14979.

II. Manufacture of, and Trade in Rum in the East Indies; Duties thereon, &c.:

1. Generally:

Great number of restrictions in India on the manufacture of rum, *Crooke* 104-106—It is fully proved, that from these restrictions and other difficulties, the manufacture of it cannot be carried on at a profit, *ib.*—Explanation as to the risks, and expenses, and different drawbacks on the exportation of rum from the East Indies to Europe, *ib.* 180 *et seq.*—The removal of the excise restrictions in India would be of great advantage, *ib.* 181-189—Enormous quantities of molasses are wasted in consequence of these restrictions, *ib.*—It could not, however, for many reasons, be sent from India with the same advantage as from the West Indies, *ib.* 190-192—The rum is shipped from Calcutta under bond, *ib.* 193—There used formerly to be a large trade in rum from India to the Australian colonies, but this has latterly fallen off, *ib.* 194-199.

Nature of the trade in rum between Calcutta and Australia, *Bagshaw* 281, 282—The inhabitants decidedly prefer the West India rum; the East India is of greater strength, but of inferior quality, *ib.*—There is an abkarry duty on all spirits sold in India, and of course rum is included, *Sykes* 656—Rum scarcely enters into the consumption of the people of India, *Tucker* 1325-1327—Information relative to the excise duty on rum in India, and as to the amount of revenue arising from the duty on spirits generally, *Prideaux* 1368-1371.

2. In Madras:

Manufacture of rum in the Madras presidency, *Ellis* 15882-15886.

3. In the Mauritius:

Extent to which witness manufactures rum on his estates; heavy excise tax thereon, *Hunter* 2703-2711—Export of rum from the Mauritius; it is an increasing trade, but is fettered by hard excise laws, *Blyth* 3424-3426—Witness's house has given up the manufacture of rum on account of the heavy excise duties, *Chapman* 3646-3648—Evidence generally as to the excise duties on spirits in the Mauritius, *ib.* 3956-3981.

4. In Province Wellesley (Straits of Malacca):

Places of consumption for the rum made in the Straits settlements; a great deal of it comes to England; some of it is sold to the shipping, *Wray* 464-466. 470—Australia was the great market, but this has fallen off; they prefer the West India rum, *ib.* 465. 467-469—Price at which this rum sells in England, *ib.* 470-472.

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III. *Manufacture of, and Duties on, Rum in the West Indies :*

1. *St. Kitt's :*

Distillation is practised upon every estate in the island, but it is not much understood, *Pickwood* 13867—There is no doubt that the ignorance of the parties to whom this distillation has been intrusted has been prejudicial to the interests of the estates, *ib.* 13858-13867.

2. *St. Vincent :*

A tax, in the shape of a licence for selling it, has lately been put on the rum consumed in the island, *Wolley* 11483-11485.

See also *Distillers*, 3. *Freights. Rectifying Spirits. Spirits.*

Rural Magistracy (British Guiana). Ordinance for the establishment of a rural magistracy and police; and for the division of British Guiana into parishes for that purpose, *Rep. iv. App.* 161, 162.

Russia. See *Beet-root Sugar.*

S.

Saccharometer. Copy of the report of Professors Brande & Cooper, dated 21 January 1847, on a new kind of saccharometer invented by Dr. Jennings, *Rep. iv. App.* 153-158.

St. Martin, Mr. E. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Native of Holland; his father is engaged in the Java trade; is acquainted to a certain extent with the mode by which the Dutch government encourage the cultivation of sugar in Java, 11882-11884—It is done by the government making advances to the cultivators, and giving the land and guaranteeing to take off their hands a certain quantity of their produce at fixed prices, in repayment for those advances; detail of the mode in which this system is carried out, 11885-11925. 12063-12087. 12141-12146—The contractor is entitled to any surplus crop beyond the quantity agreed to be taken by Government, the contractor paying 8*d.* per every cwt. not delivered to government; these are what are called free sugars, 11926-11929. 11931-11933. 11940-11942—These free sugars constitute the principal supply at Batavia, 11930—The free sugars have gradually increased every year 11934-11936.

The sugar plantations enjoy the privilege of being exempt from the obligation of cultivating rice, 11937-11939—Other plantations which are exempt, from contracts with government, 11943, 11944—Present prices of sugar in Batavia; no sugar at the present prices can be imported from Batavia under the existing duty, 11945-11950. 12121-12134—Amount of government freights from Batavia; freight paid by private merchants, 11951, 11952—Under the system of cultivation pursued by the Danish government in Java, the production of the colony has increased from 25,000 baskets to 400,000 baskets between 1827 and 1847; 11953-11955—About one-half of the island is still uncultivated, 11956. 12102, 12103—The planters and manufacturers find their own labourers; they are all free, 11957, 11958—There are some Chinese manufacturers in the island, but they work only on their own account, 11959. 11964, 11965.

Way in which the work done by the government labourers is in some sort compulsory; the wages are lower than those paid by private parties; a public tariff is proclaimed; number of hours of labour; coin in which the wages are paid, 11959-11963. 11966-11973—Export duty on Java sugar if carried in foreign vessels, 11974-11978—There is an excise duty in Holland upon sugar used for home consumption, but there is no distinction in the kind of sugar, 11979-11989—Beet-root sugar could not compete in Holland with cane sugar, 11981-11988. 12094-12101—The refiner gets a drawback on his sugar re-exported, which practically amounts to a bounty on the export of refined sugar, 11990-11999.

Total quantity of sugar grown in Java in 1847; proportion of free sugar, 12009-12018—There are many estates in Java belonging to Englishmen and Dutchmen; witness has never heard of their having been unprofitable, 12019-12021—Difference in the mode in which the government and the planters engage their labourers, 12022—As regards the government estates, the field cultivation of sugar may be said to be entirely government cultivation, the contractor having nothing to do with the sugar till the time of cutting, 12023-12025—The labourers are not compelled to work for private individuals at the same rate of wages as the government tariff, 12026-12035.

Witness has no reason to believe that private sugar costs more than government sugar, 12036—Evidence showing that there is no kind of analogy between the government compulsory labour in Java and slavery as it exists in other parts of the world, 12041-12052—The Maatschappy company is exclusively a trading company, doing business for

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for the government; they are not cultivators of sugar in Java at all themselves, 12053-12062—Further detail of the system under which the government cultivation is carried out, 12063-12087. 12141-12146—The Dutch trading company are not ship-owners at all; way in which ships are taken up for conveying sugar from Java to Holland, 12088-12093—How far, with the present population of the island of Java, any of the large portion of uncultivated land might be brought into sugar cultivation, 12102-12109. 12119, 12120—Particulars relative to the settlement of the Chinese cultivators in Java, 12110-12118—The number of free estates is not at all restricted by government, 12135-12138.

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Antigua.—Probable good effect on the negroes if they found that all the principal people in the island submitted to a reduction in their salaries, *Shand* 8263-8265.

Barbados.—The salary of the Governor of Barbados is paid by England; amount of his salary, *Best* 11332, 11333.

British Guiana.—Examination as to the different official salaries on the Civil List, and individual amounts thereof, paid out of the revenues of the colony, *Loxdale* 9558-9565—Erroneousness of the statement made by Mr. Barkly, that as regards the salaries of the authorities in British Guiana, it was made a condition by the Colonial Office that they would consent to an Immigration Act, and to a loan ordinance for promoting immigration, provided the Civil List was continued for seven years beyond the time it had been previously continued, *Hawes* 16271. 16325, 16326. 16507-16523—This was at the period a reduction of 25 or 30 per cent. was proposed to be made from the salaries of all civil, judicial, and ecclesiastical officers, with a view to its leading to a reduction of the wages of the lower classes, *ib.* 16271.

Despatch from Governor Light to Earl Grey, dated 1 January 1848, transmitting a series of resolutions of the Court of Policy in reference to the distressed state of the colony, and praying a reduction of 25 per cent. upon salaries fixed by the Civil List, and on all others, amounting to 700 dollars and upwards, *Rep.* iii. *App.* 346—Despatch from Earl Grey in reply, dated 15 February 1848, stating the reasons why he cannot concur in the proposed reduction, *ib.* 348.

Demerara.—If all the officers of government, beginning at the head, were to be reduced 30 per cent. in their salaries, it would have a good moral effect in the way of example upon the negroes, making them more ready to submit to a reduction, *Naghten* 8859, 8860.

Jamaica.—Reducing the annual charge of all official persons 25 or 30 per cent. would go far towards reducing the wages of way labourers, attornies, overseers, and so forth, *Lord Howard de Walden* 4559—The question of a general reduction has been considered by the Assembly and a great number of reductions proposed, *ib.*—The Bill was lost mainly in consequence of its touching the salaries of many influential persons in the island, *ib.*—How far a reduction of the salaries of the public officers, beginning with the Governor, might lead eventually to a possibility of reducing the wages of the labourers, *Colville* 5787-5803—Difficulties in the way of curtailing the salaries of the officials in the island of Jamaica, as a step towards reducing the wages of the labourers, *Geddes* 9018, 9019—Great difficulty has been raised by the council of Jamaica to any reduction of the salaries, *Borthwick* 13018.—See also *Ceylon.* *Wages.*

Sale of Lands :

Ceylon.—The government, under protection, sold their land for 20s. an acre, having originally sold it for 5s.; in common honesty, therefore, if they withdraw the protection they should return the 15s., *Anstruther* 16791-16803.

Mauritius.—Very just complaints have been made in respect of the heavy duties upon the registration and transfer of land by mortgage and sale in the Mauritius, *Hawes* 16260—At this moment the subject is under the consideration of the council, and a partial reduction has already taken place, *ib.*—This subject is also at the present time seriously occupying the attention of the Colonial Office, *ib.*

Sale of Sugars. There is nothing to complain of in the sale charges in this country when the sugar arrives here, *Barkly* 11019, 11020—Detailed description of the manner in which sugars are sold at the market, *Browne* 12593 *et seq.* 12630-12635—Evils of the present system pointed out, *ib.* 12593-12599. 12630-12635—By far the larger proportion of sugars are sold by public sale; it is decidedly to the advantage of the planter to sell by public sale, *ib.* 12600-12604. 12631, 12632—Commission usually charged upon the sale of sugar, *ib.* 12605-12612—Parties equally responsible with those now engaged could be found to manage the importation and sale of sugar for a less remuneration than that now charged, *ib.* 12613-12625.

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Reference to the mode in which the merchants charge the proprietor with interest upon the duty, *Browne* 12664-12671—The broker's commission ought to be paid in equal proportions by the refiner and the merchant, *ib.* 12677-12698—Terms of sale of a ton of sugar in the London market, *ib.* 12699—It would be better for the refiner to pay the duty than the merchant, *ib.* 12700-12710—How far doing away with private sales would be any restriction upon the sale of sugar, *ib.* 12747, 12748—It is better the moment sugars are landed that they should be sold; it does not do to speculate with them, *ib.* 12748-12757—The plan of selling sugar duty paid, and incurring the additional charges, is for the benefit of the merchant and broker in this country, rather than for that of the planter, *ib.* 12813-12825—Witness would recommend compulsory sales by auction, and that the duty should be levied according to the price paid, *ib.* 12834-12836.

Salt Monopoly (Ceylon). One item of duty in Ceylon is the tax on salt, in the form of a Government monopoly; this is an oppressive tax on the people, *Christian* 14394, 14395.

See also *Ceylon*.

Santa Cruz. Witness is concerned in sugar transactions in the West Indies and in Santa Cruz; was the chief importer from Santa Cruz, *Kemshead* 1028-1031. 1188-1191—Looking to the uncertainty with which matters are now conducted, witness would be very sorry to embark any money even in Santa Cruz, *ib.* 1031—Way in which witness's transactions with Santa Cruz are at present carried on, *ib.* 1031. 1034-1036—His confidence in the security of any commercial policy has been entirely destroyed, *ib.* 1032—Evidence generally respecting the sugar trade with Santa Cruz; quality of the sugars made; rate of freights; ships in which brought; number of voyages made in the year by each vessel, *ib.* 1033-1046—Evidence showing that the population of the island of Santa Cruz is in a state of mitigated slavery, *Shaw* 11576-11580.

See also *Cost of Production*, III. 3. ii. *Cultivation of Sugar*, VI. *Free Labour*, 2. *Slavery*.

Scotch Distillers. The Scotch distiller is allowed in some instances a greater latitude than the English distiller; he may brew at a lower gravity than the English distiller, *Currie* 8653. 8659—Evidence showing the great disadvantage under which the Scotch malt distillers labour in the export of their spirits to foreign countries as compared with the English corn distiller, *Wood* 15180-15206—Statement delivered to witness by Mr. Browning of the firm of Twiss & Browning, wholesale spirit dealers, on 4 April 1848, showing the decrease on Scotch spirits in the transit to this country, *Wood's Ev. Rep.* vi. p. 125-127.

See also *Bonding Spirits*. *Distillers*. *Malt Distillers*. *Rectifying Spirits*. *Rum*. *Spirits*.

Scotland, Mr. Refutation of statements made in the House of Commons on the strength of pamphlets published by Mr. Scotland, that at the present moment free labour is cheaper than slave labour, *Higgins* 9815. 9932-9947.

See also *Free Labour*, 2.

Scott, Alexander Reid. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Merchant in Kingston, Jamaica; has resided in Jamaica 20 years; has been also in Cuba and St. Thomas, 13429-13431—At the present moment the trade of Jamaica is entirely paralysed, 13432—Is the owner of a sugar estate in the island of Jamaica, and has been concerned in making advances to others, 13433—Witness can perfectly confirm the evidence which has been given before the Committee as to the distressed state of the sugar cultivation, 13434—The only remedy witness can suggest to alleviate the distress is a protection against the admission of slave-grown sugar, 13435. 13494-13506—Free labour can never compete with slave labour, 13436-13442.

With the cessation of trade and the cessation of cultivation, no considerable revenue can be raised from the island; excessive expenditure of the island; extent to which it might be reduced, 13443-13452. 13469-13476. 13507, 13508—Sugar and coffee are the only articles which can be successfully cultivated in Jamaica, 13453, 13454—How far irrigation has been tried and adopted in Jamaica, 13455-13461—Any alteration of the Navigation Laws would not benefit the West India planter, while it would injure the British shipowner, 13462-13468—A heavy loss having been inflicted by the British Parliament on the West India colonies, the planters have a strong claim upon this country for compensation, 13477-13493.

Scott, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness, with his partners, is interested to the extent of one-eighth of a very small sugar concern, situated at Ganjam, under the Madras presidency; the concern was established by Binney & Co., of which firm witness's house were the agents, 1768, 1769—The whole capital of the company did not exceed from 16,000*l.* to 18,000*l.*, 1770—The concern is carried on in the most approved European system, 1771—There are no means of judging at present whether it will turn out profitably; so far as it has already gone the company are disposed to abandon it,

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Scott, William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

1772—In so deciding they are not at all governed by the present price of sugar, 1773—The article itself can be produced very cheaply in the district, 1773-1775—For the last year Binney & Co. have not exported their sugars at a profit; this arises probably from the great expense of the transit; the means of transit between the Ganjam district and the sea-board are the very worst in the world, 1776-1782.

Sugar can be produced in the Ganjam district so as to compete with any sugar in the world, 1783—It is only a few of the shareholders in the concern that are anxious to abandon the concern; Messrs. Binney themselves are rather sanguine, 1784. 1794-1800—Further evidence respecting the capital of the company; quantity of sugar exported; the thing is at present quite in its infancy, 1788-1793. 1801.

Scott, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Sugar broker, 5258—Statement of the operation upon the sugar market of the various changes in the laws which have taken place since 1844; 5259 *et seq.*—Effect of the proposition of our Government in 1844, to admit foreign free-labour sugar at a protecting duty of 10s. per cwt., on the price of sugar, 5259-5270—Effect of the Bill of 1846, admitting slave-grown sugar, on the prices of sugar, 5271-5290—Information as respects the classification of sugar, especially in respect of Havannah sugar paying the same duties as compared with British plantation sugar, 5291-5303—Similar classifications existed in the United States, but they have been lately abandoned; they now charge a duty of 30 per cent. upon the value, 5304—In the French duties there is a distinction made, *ib.*—Account of the French duties upon sugar, *ib.*

Evidence in detail relative to the export of sugar from this country to the Continent of Europe previously to the emancipation of the slaves, 5305 *et seq.*—This export lasted till Government did away with what had become a bounty upon refined sugar, 5307-5312. 5314-5317—The extra supply since that period has not been great, 5313—There has been a deterioration of the quality of British sugar since emancipation; this inferiority may be attributed to the want of labour, 5318-5321—Evidence showing that the cost of producing sugar in the West India colonies is greater than it was previously to emancipation, 5322, 5323.

Reasons for there being more saccharine matter in Havannah sugar than in West India sugars, 5324-5326—Present average price of West India sugar; this price would not have been remunerative even if emancipation had not taken place, 5332-5336—Evidence showing that the greater part of the depreciation in the price of colonial sugar has been caused by the admission of foreign sugar, 5337-5349—There has not been any difference of price in Holland between free labour and slave-labour sugar, quality for quality, 5350-5353—There is no doubt the cheap price of an article is an advantage to the consumer, 5354-5359.

It is a question whether the reduction of price has been beneficial to the persons engaged in the sugar trade in this country, 5360-5375. 5425, 5426—The consumption in this country does not depend entirely upon the cheapness of price, 5379—It depends on the state of employment of the people generally, and their capability to buy, 5379-5385—Jamaica sugar is preferred over any other quality of muscovado sugar, but it is not preferred to clayed sugars, 5388, 5389—Evidence generally on the subject of refining sugar in bond, 5390-5399—It is doubtful whether the new Distilleries Bill, allowing molasses to be distilled, will be any advantage to the West Indians, 5400-5402—If sugar were to be allowed in distilleries, it would certainly tend to increase the consumption, 5403-5408—The standard for the classification of the sugar duties is taken too high; suggestion as to the mode in which an improvement might be made, 5409-5422—Difference of quality of British colonial sugar and Cuban sugar for refining, 5423, 5424—The depreciation of sugar, and the ruin of the sugar trade, rather preceded the late severe monetary pressure than took place as a consequence of it, 5427-5429.

Shand, Francis. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—West India merchant and a Liverpool ship-owner; and also a proprietor in Antigua, 8091—In consequence of the sudden fall in the price of sugar, the whole proceeds of a very large crop have been absorbed in the cost of production, and many of the bills having in consequence gone back, has thrown the planters and others into the greatest possible confusion, 8092—This has caused the reduction of wages, and it is not anything like combination that has had this effect, *ib.*—Evidence in detail showing the expenditure on witness's estates for four years before emancipation, and for every year since, 8093-8104—In 1845-46, out of the nine estates witness and his partners are the proprietors of, there were only one or two turned their expenses and left a small profit; on the other estates there was a large loss, 8105-8107.

Information on the subject of the reduction in the cost of labour, and in the cost of cultivation in Antigua; evidence generally as to the rate of wages, 8108-8126—At the

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Shand, Francis. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

the present prices in this country, witness will endeavour to get out of his estates as soon as possible; he gave up one estate, the finest estate in the southern district of the island, last year, 8127, 8128—All the improvements that the cultivation of a sugar estate is capable of have been adopted, 8129—Anticipation that the present reduction of wages will not last, 8129-8136.

Improvements suggested as regards the hiring of labourers, 8137 *et seq.*—There ought to be some law which would insure to the planters the work of the labourers; the contract law should be simplified as much as possible, 8137—Practically the planter has been oppressed by the negro during the last few years; the negro is now the master of the planter, 8139, 8140—Benefits which would be derived from an immigration of labourers; successful importation of people from Madeira in 1847; how far restrictions have been placed on this immigration, 8141-8163.

- Even if the planters had the privilege of procuring labourers from the coast of Africa, their difficulties would be very great in procuring them, 8164—Evidence to show that Mr. Gladstone's Bill has not been of that advantage to the British colonists that was expected from the opening of the trade to the United States, 8164-8174—The abolition of the Navigation Laws would not be of the slightest advantage to the island of Antigua, 8175, 8176—Supposing the West Indies to have their will, and get the Navigation Laws repealed, if it did lower freights at all, it would undoubtedly lower freights also to their rivals in Cuba and the Brazils; in fact, these places would most probably get the greater advantage, 8177-8197.

Improvements suggested for the benefit of the West India islands, 8198 *et seq.*—The want of a contract law and of an annual hiring is extremely injurious; it induces squatting, 8198-8205—Witness would say that the cultivation of Antigua generally could not go on with a less protection than 10s. a cwt., though possibly Mr. Tollemache's individual estates, which are above the standard, might do so, 8206-8211—Evidence as to the difference in the duration of the voyage from England to Santa Cruz and back, and from England to Antigua and back; papers delivered in, showing the periods in which some of witness's ships have performed the voyage to Antigua and back, 8212-8222.

Further opinions in favour of efficient contract laws; the Contract Act which is now in existence in Antigua is inoperative, 8223-8228. 8241-8248—In Antigua the demand for labour has been greater than the supply, as a large number of the labourers have become independent, by reason of the high wages they have received; how far a law regulating contracts would be likely to remedy this, 8229-8231—Such laws as the legislature of the island feel would be available and desirable should be sanctioned at home, 8232-8240—A vagrant law is very much wanted in Antigua; the people may be said to be all vagrants, 8249—Even with an importation of labourers, Antigua could not compete with Cuba, 8250.

The West Indies could not under any circumstances compete with slave labour supplied by the slave trade, 8251—Industrious habits of the women in Antigua, 8252—Object with which the tonnage duties are levied in Antigua, 8254, 8255—If slave produce continue to be admitted at the same duty as our own, one-third of the estates will go out of cultivation, and may as well go out of cultivation at once, 8256-8259—Oppressive nature of the taxes in Antigua; way in which the earthquake put the planters under very heavy taxes, 8260-8262—Probable amount of the land-tax in St. John's this year, 8260, 8261—Probable good effect on the negroes if they found that all the principal people in the island submitted to a reduction in their salaries, 8263-8265.

Further detail of the cost of production of sugar on witness's estates previously to emancipation; total cost for three years prior to emancipation, and for each subsequent year up to 1847, showing that by the alteration from slave to free labour, the cost has been trebled, 8266-8295—Further evidence to show that any repeal of the Navigation Laws would be equally beneficial to the producer of Cuba as to the producer of the West Indies, 8296-8308.

Shand, Mr. . Papers delivered in by Mr. Shand, 9 March 1848, and referred to in answer to question 8194, *Rep.* iii. *App.* 483.

Shaw, Dr. Norton. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Medical man, born in the Danish island of Santa Cruz, 11521—Has travelled much in all the West India islands, and has had some opportunity of comparing the effects of labour among slaves and among free people within the Tropics, 11521, 11522—In Porto Rico free labour is employed to a considerable extent, but is materially assisted in the hardest part of the occupation by slave labour; wages of the free labourers; comparative number of hours' labour performed by the free men and the slaves, 11523-11531—Reason why free labour, such as is employed in Porto Rico, does not and cannot exist for some time to come in any of the British West India islands, 11523, 11537—The sugar production of the island of Porto Rico has considerably

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considerably increased of late years; it is capable of being extended to an unlimited extent, 11532-11536—It is almost entirely muscovado sugar that is made there, 11538—Steps they are taking to improve the manufacture, 11539.

There is no scarcity of labour now, but if new land be brought into cultivation they will want labour 11540, 11541—Very few slaves have been imported lately, 11542-11546—Capital has been continually flowing into the island, and still more is wanted, 11547-11549—Cultivation of sugar on Crab island, near Porto Rico; this island is claimed by England, by Denmark, and by Spain, 11550-11553—Encouragement given to the slave trade in Cuba, 11554-11560—If it had not been for the Act of 1846, in a few years Cuba must have been led to emancipate her slaves, 11558-11560.

The free labour of the English colonies cannot compete with slave labour elsewhere, 11561, 11562—Under existing circumstances continuous labour cannot be obtained from the negro in a state of freedom; immigration would be the only remedy, but this must be a work of time, 11563-11568—Reference to the statement made by Mr. MacGregor that a differential duty of 10 s. ought to exist in favour of free sugars, 11571—There is no moral doubt that the slave trade has increased since the Act of 1846; 11572, 11572*—Reference to various documents which have been laid before Parliament in support of this assertion, *ib.*

How far the system of leasing estates, as recommended by Earl Grey, would be practicable, 11573—Even under existing circumstances the planters in some of the colonies will undoubtedly be able to continue the cultivation, 11574, 11575—The island of Barbados can compete with any other, 11574—Evidence showing that the population of the island of Santa Cruz is in a state of mitigated slavery, 11576-11580—Cost of the production of a cwt. of sugar in the Danish islands, 11581—The best of their sugars are sent to the United States; a large quantity of their sugars have gone to Hamburg and Copenhagen, 11582—Their sugars enjoy a small protection in the Danish market, 11583, 11584.

The sugar cultivation in Santa Cruz is a profitable speculation, 11585, 11586—It is better cultivated than our West India Islands, with the exception of Barbados, 11587, 11588—The average yield per acre in Santa Cruz is by no means so great as in Porto Rico, 11589-11591—There is no chance of slavery in Santa Cruz being got rid of before 1858; 11592-11594—Witness can speak generally with respect to the good conduct of the negroes in the West Indies; he does not blame them for their laziness, 11595.

[Second Examination.]—Proportion the free labour in Porto Rico bears to the slave-labour in the cultivation of sugar 11596-11606—Cost of cultivating sugar in Porto Rico; decrease therein, 11607-11609. 11616-11619—The price of average muscovado sugar in Porto Rico is now very low, 11610-11615—This may be attributed to the large quantities of sugar which have been thrown into the British market in consequence of the Bill of 1846; 11614—Further evidence as to slave dealing in Porto Rico, 11620-11625—Plan obtaining there of letting out slaves; this is also practised in Cuba, and in Santa Cruz, 11602-11606. 11627-11636. 11641-11643—Many of the sugar estates in Porto Rico are under advances; there has been a great want of capital, 11626—How far the feeling exists in Cuba in favour of the emancipation of the slaves, 11637-11640.

Any sudden large increase of labour imported into Jamaica and Trinidad, and British Guiana, would be prejudicial to those colonies, 11644, 11645. 11734. 11739. 11743—Witness would not advocate any sudden increase of population in any country, particularly where no regard was paid to the equality of the sexes, 11645—With a due regard to this subject, and if the colonists would treat them kindly when they arrived, it would be impossible to limit the number of immigrants into the colonies, 11646-11648—Instead of carrying it out under a system of immigration a system of colonization might be introduced, 11646—Government should have a control over the planters, to see that the blacks are well used, 11647.

Such is the enormous fertility of the mass of uncultivated ground in Barbadoe, and Trinidad, and Demerara, that under any ordinary system of immigration, it would be impossible to limit it, 11648—Witness is not of opinion that we should go to Africa to buy slaves there to make them free afterwards, *ib.*—Witness is averse to the system of squatting; whether the negro should be allowed to become a proprietor of land is another question, 11649-11652.

Suggestions as to the mode in which the affairs of the West India colonies might be improved, 11653 *et seq.*—Witness has always been favourable to the representation of the colonies in Parliament; evidence to show that the West Indians are an exceedingly loyal people, 11653-11655—The colonies are complaining of the prices of sugar, 11655—They are complaining of the slave competition under the Bill of 1846, *ib.*—They complain also very much that their staple produce, sugar, should be taxed at the rate of 75 to 80 per cent. in order to increase the revenue of Great Britain, *ib.*—They likewise complain of the duties upon their rum, *ib.*—And they complain that when-

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ever they have attempted a retrenchment in the expenditure of the colonies upon any extensive scale, Government has uniformly opposed it, 11655-11663. 11667-11669.—The appointment of stipendiary magistrates should be looked to, 11664-11666. 11778-11793. 11828-11834.

Barbados is placed under very favourable circumstances indeed, as regards its competency to produce sugar against the slave-sugar producing countries, 11670-11672.—Further evidence to show that the slave trade has increased in Cuba since the passing of the Act of 1846; 11679-11708.—In Porto Rico, when continuous labour is required, they depend on the slaves and not on the free labourers, 11709-11728.—With a healthy population, the difference between the competition of free labour and slave labour would be but small, but still the balance would be in favour of slavery, 11729-11731.—The distress existing in Barbados is mainly attributable to the mismanagement and failure of the bank there, 11732-11734.—Any healthy emigration, a due regard being had to the equality of the sexes, would materially benefit the West India colonies, more especially British Guiana, Trinidad, and portions of Jamaica, 11740, 11741. 11747-11749.—But to suppose that immigration alone is to be a cure for all the evils is a great mistake, 11740. 11749.—The planters want the introduction of these labourers for the purpose of bringing the existing population to terms, 11740-11742.—There must therefore be a number adequate for that purpose introduced, 11742.—Such immigration should, however, be allowed only to proceed very gradually, 11743-11746.

The introduction of labour into the Mauritius has failed from its having been too sudden, 11743-11746.—A great reduction might be made in the expenditure of the West India islands, especially in Jamaica, 11750-11755.—Further evidence as to the loyalty of the people of Jamaica; there is no disposition to throw off the protection of the mother country, 11756-11760. 11768-11775.—There is no desire on the part of the colonists of Jamaica to govern themselves, but witness thinks it would be a great benefit if she were allowed to do so, 11759. 11770-11775. 11835-11838.—How far allowing free trade with America in provisions and lumber has been a boon to Jamaica, 11761-11767. 11817-11827.—Alteration necessary in the contracts between masters and servants, 11776, 11777. 11794-11801.

African labour would answer in the West Indies, but there is no reason why Chinese should not be obtained as well, 11804-11807.—Doubt as to the practicability of getting large quantities of Africans without purchase, 11807.—At the present time the interests of the planters resident upon their properties and of the merchants here are quite identical, 11808-11816. 11839 *et seq.*—It has been a very common case that they were not identical, 11809. 11839 *et seq.*—Statement handed in in illustration of witness's views upon this subject, 11809.

It would be of some advantage if the West India planters were enabled to sell their sugars to the Americans, or any one who would buy them, but it is witness's opinion that the Americans would not buy them under existing circumstances, 11839-11847.—There is no danger of the British colonies ever desiring to be annexed to the United States of America, 11848-11864.—Such a thing would be impossible on account of the opposition which would be immediately raised to it by the black population, 11848-11864.—Further statement that half the labour used in the produce of sugar in Porto Rico is free labour, although Mr. M'Gregor, Mr. M'Culloch, and Mr. Merivale state to the contrary, 11865-11881.—Table of the imports and exports of Porto Rico for the years 1841 and 1842; 11867.

Sierra Leone. Number of slaves emancipated from 1819 to 1837 at Sierra Leone, *Lord Palmerston* 6.—Copies of the charter-parties or other instruments under which the colonial governments had contracted with certain merchants, shipowners, for the conveyance of Africans to the British West Indies, together with any rules and regulations framed in the Colonial Office in relation to such immigration and such conveyance, *Rep.* vii. *App.* 349.

See also *African Immigrants*, 2. *Free Labour*, 4. *Immigration*, III. 3. iv. *Mortality.* *Liberated Africans.*

Silk. See *Remittances from India.*

Singapore. In Singapore there are two sugar estates, one owned by the American consul, and the other by Dr. Montgomery, a company's servant; but the lands are not fixed at any rent; tenure under which they are held; *Wray* 414, 415. 417.—See also *Straits Settlements.*

Slave Factories. The destruction of the factories is the great thing necessary for the total suppression of the slave trade, *Denman* 1677.

SLAVE-GROWN SUGAR:

SLAVE-GROWN SUGAR:

1. *Great Evils which have resulted from the introduction of Slave-grown Sugar by the Act of 1846.*
2. *Remedies suggested for these Evils.*
3. *How far any Steps have been taken by the Government to relieve the Distress caused by the Act of 1846.*
4. *Refutation of the Statements which have been made that Free Labour is cheaper than Slave Labour.*
5. *Evidence showing the Impossibility of Free Labour competing with Slave Labour.*

a. *Great Evils which have resulted from the introduction of Slave-grown Sugar by the Act of 1846:*

Opinion expressed by the Committee that the change made in the sugar duties by the Act of 1846, without any accompanying remedy for the difficulties of production by free labour in the British colonies, has precipitated the ruin of these possessions by aggravating the pressure under which they previously laboured, *Rep. viii. p. 3*—Opinion expressed by the Committee that the ultimate effect of the abandonment of estates will be to give a greater extension to the growth of sugar in slave countries, and a greater impetus to slavery and the slave trade, *ib. 4*—India has nothing to fear from the increase of free-labour sugar; it is sugar the produce of Brazil, Cuba, and Porto Rico that she is afraid of, *Alexander 1871-1881. 1963-1965. 1973-1976. 2003-2014.*

The planters of the Mauritius do not consider themselves the victims of rash or ill-founded speculation, but entirely of the bad faith of Parliament and of the country, which in 1841 had so strongly expressed itself against the introduction of slave-grown sugar, *Hunter 2412-2415. 2683-2686*—The planters never for a moment supposed the possibility of the Act of 1846 being passed, *ib. 2412*—Reference to the failure of certain houses connected with the Mauritius since the passing of this Bill; large capital invested by them in the cultivation of sugar, *ib. 2416-2418. 2422-2429*—Fall in the price of sugar from the Mauritius on the secession of Sir R. Peel's Government, and the advent of the free traders to power, *ib. 2419-2421. 2423-2427*—Estimate of the loss entailed on the colony of the Mauritius in the crop of 1846-47 by the Bill of 1846, *ib. 2489-2492. 2631 et seq. 2776*—On the passing of the Act of 1846 witness's firm as Mauritius merchants became much alarmed, and determined to contract their business with that island, *Blyth 3037, 3038*—It was their opinion that the Mauritius could not compete with slave-holding countries, *ib. 3039, 3040.*

Evidence showing that the fall in the price of sugar is to be attributed to the inundation of slave-grown sugar consequent upon the Act of 1846, *Chapman 3586-3601*—The Act of 1846 found the planters of the Mauritius reduced to their last resources, and effectually sealed their ruin, *ib. 3833, 3834*—Result of a deputation to Lord John Russell, Lord Grey, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, of which witness formed one, with a view to show the unfavourable position of the Mauritius as regards labour, and also showing that under the existing system it is impossible for the island to compete with slave labour, *Sir G. Larpent 3991-3993*—Witness stated to Lord John Russell that the nominal existing protective duty between Cuba sugars and Mauritius sugars was in point of fact a complete delusion, *ib. 3994, 3995*—Annual profit or loss in each year on witness's estates in the Mauritius since 1834 up to 1845, showing that it will not be fair to put the whole amount of loss upon the Bill of 1846; great loss which has taken place since the passing of this Act, *ib. 4000-4002*—Price which would have been sufficient to have enabled witness to cultivate these estates profitably, *ib. 4003.*

One of the causes which have led to the great losses of the Mauritius is the increased production of slave colonies and countries, *Sir G. Larpent 4011, 4012*—If slavery had continued, the British colonies would have been able to compete with the slavery of Cuba and Brazil, *ib. 4027*—The great loss upon the estates in the Mauritius in which witness is interested has been since 1846, *Guthrie 4142-4145. 4152-4155*—The greater part of the depreciation in the price of colonial sugar has been caused by the admission of foreign sugar, *Scott 5337-5349*—If the Act of 1846 be maintained, there is no hope of the colonies being able to continue their cultivation, *Colville 5922-5924*—If the Sugar Bill of 1846 be persevered in, the effect will be to annihilate the production of sugar in our colonies, and thereby to give an encouragement to the production of sugar in slave-growing countries, *ib. 6055-6059.*

Barbados has been in a state of very great distress since 1846, since they have been placed in competition with slave-grown sugar, *Dummett 7491-7496*—If prices remain as they are, witness fears he must abandon his Antigua estate, or at any rate he will not invest any further capital upon it, which he was about to do if he had not been stopped by the Bill of 1846, *Sir W. Codrington 8451, 8452*—Witness attributes the depreciation in the value of his estates in Demerara mainly to the inundation of slave-grown sugar consequent upon the Act of 1846, *Nugten 8830-8837*—Witness attributes our present position entirely to the irruption of slave sugar, which is an element the planters

Reports, 1847-48—continued.

SLAVE-GROWN SUGAR—continued.

1. *Great Evils which have resulted from the Act of 1846*—continued.

never had to contend against before, *Geddes* 9080, 9081—There is a clear and distinct contradiction to be found to the allegation that it is the monetary crisis that has produced the evil, and not the Act of 1846, in the circumstance that British sugar has fallen 13*l.* a ton, and slave-grown sugar has maintained its price, *Higgins* 9882-9885—It is very clear that the Acts of the Legislature have affected the price of our sugar much more than they have that of slave countries, *ib.* 9883.

Further evidence as to the evil effects of the Acts of 1844 and 1846, *Higgins* 9959-9963—Witness never imagined that this country would have allowed slave-grown sugar to come in upon equal terms with free grown, *ib.* 9961—He thought the pecuniary sacrifices which England had made at the expense of the colonists would prevent her ever permitting that, *ib.*—Under the present system there is no doubt the West India sugar will be driven out by slave produce, *ib.* 10043—Evidence showing the reasons why witness cannot separate the effect of the Act of 1846 from that of the Act of 1844, *ib.* 10104-10109, 10112-10125—Previous to the passing of the Act of 1846 the cultivation of sugar in Trinidad was increasing; evil effects of this Act, *Marryat* 10376-10382.

There is no doubt that the late fall in the price of sugar is to be mainly attributed to the inundation of foreign sugar consequent on the passing of the Act of 1846, *Barkly* 10818-10829—One self-evident proof that it is the Act of 1846 which has reduced the price of British colonial sugar, is to be found in the fact that foreign sugar has maintained its price, while British sugar has fallen 12*l.* a ton, *ib.* 10829—The immigration had produced an effect up to the passing of the Act of 1846; evil effects which have occurred to the colonies from the passing of this Act, *ib.* 10890-10899—If it had not been for the Act of 1846, in a few years Cuba must have been led to emancipate her slaves, *Shaw* 11558-11560—The colonies are complaining of the slave competition under the Bill of 1846, *ib.* 11655.

The colonists complain very much, and with great reason, that the Sugar-duty Bill of 1846 has caused the grievances brought about by the Emancipation Act to fall upon them with increased severity, *Ranken* 12408 *et seq.*—The immediate cause of the distress in Jamaica is the lowered price of sugar consequent upon the introduction of foreign slave-grown sugar into the market to compete with English colonial produce; other evils which have resulted from this Bill, *Borthwick* 12989-12997—If the law of 1846 remain in existence, the continuing to cultivate sugar, except in particular favoured localities, is a hopeless case for the West Indies, *Crawford* 13090-13093—As regards the past, the distress in the West Indies has been attributed to the Act of 1846 more perhaps than can be fairly ascribed to it; but prospectively it will no doubt act most injuriously, *Innes* 13384, 13385—The great evil has been the large amount of foreign sugar which has been thrown upon the market by the Act of 1846, *Miles* 13590, 13610-13613.

2. *Remedies suggested for these Evils:*

Advantages which may be anticipated from excluding slave-labour sugar from this country, and admitting free-labour sugar, *Kemshead* 1159-1191—Witness would recommend the total exclusion of slave-labour sugar from the British market, *Alexander* 1922-1925—The only ground on which it was said to be admissible is no longer tenable, *ib.* 1924—It was introduced on the supposition that there was not sufficient free-labour sugar to supply the English market, *ib.*—This has been incontestably proved to be a fallacy, *ib.*—Witness would exclude all articles the produce of slave labour as well as sugar, such as tobacco, coffee, &c., *ib.* 1926-1931.

If we could make enough free sugar we should exterminate the slave sugar, and so put down the slave colonies, *Guthrie* 4236—The only effectual remedial measure is to abandon the Act of 1846, and fall back upon the Act of 1845, *Colville* 5804, 5848—That is, the Act admitting free-labour sugar at a distinctive duty, *ib.* 5805—Further reasons why witness would wish to revert back to the Bill of 1845, *ib.* 5989-6018—The West India colonies cannot compete with slave-grown sugar unless they can obtain a reduction in their expenditure or a large increase of produce; the produce bears now so small a proportion to the fixed capital, *Hankey* 6897-6901—What witness asks is, that the use of slave sugar should be debarred in this country, we having declined to receive slave sugar from our own colonies, *Geddes* 9082-9101—Witness would recommend Parliament to retrace its steps, and prevent slave-grown sugar being introduced into this country, *Borthwick* 12991.

3. *How far any Steps have been taken by the Government to relieve the Distress caused by the Act of 1846:*

If the Government do not do something, this country will have to look entirely to slave countries for its supply of sugar, *Colville* 5925—Three of the points of which the planters complain were recapitulated at the passing of the Bill of 1846, by Lord John Russell, viz. the Navigation Laws, the inequality of duty between rum and corn spirits, and the restrictions under which the colonies lie as regards the supply of labour, *Higgins* 9983-9985—The planters were told they were to be relieved from them, but hardly anything has as yet been done, *ib.* 9985.

4. *Refutation*

SLAVE-GROWN SUGAR—continued.

4. *Refutation of the Statements which have been made that Free Labour is cheaper than Slave Labour :*

Refutation of the statements which have been made in the House of Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Wilson, on the strength of the pamphlets published by Dr. Jelly and Mr. Scotland, that at the present moment free labour is cheaper than slave labour, *Higgins* 9815. 9932-9947.

5. *Evidence showing the Impossibility of Free Labour competing with Slave Labour :*

The fact of free-labour sugar and slave-labour sugar selling at the same price in the markets of Europe is most decidedly no proof that the cost of production must be the same, *Kemshead* 1122-1153. 1232-1235—No system would compete with that of slavery, *Hunter* 2549, 2550. 2575-2578—Further detail of the relative cost of free and slave-labour, *ib.* 2756-2775. 2855-2860—Witness has been twice to the Brazils in order personally to investigate the power of the Brazils to compete with the Mauritius in the cheap cultivation of sugar, *Blyth* 3041-3066—The result of witness's visits was, that on his return to England, and consulting with his partners, they resolved that the Mauritius could not compete with Brazil under the Sugar-duties Bill of 1846, *ib.* 3071-3073—Instructions given to their correspondents to curtail their engagements in consequence, *ib.* 3074, 3075.

Slave-labour sugar has not fallen in price in the same degree as free-labour sugar, *Chapman* 3477, 3478—Impossibility of the Mauritius, under the present system of labour, competing with slave labour; increased cost of production resulting from the present system, *ib.* 3586-3601—Impossibility of the Mauritius competing with the Havannah; free labour cannot compete with slave labour, *ib.* 3821-3830—Further evidence in detail, showing the impossibility of free labour competing with slave labour, *ib.* 3887-3918—Our colonies with free labour cannot compete with foreign colonies having slave labour, *Price* 4991—Witness regards the question entirely as a question of labour, *ib.* 5033—There is nothing to hinder our competing with slave labour provided we get labour at the same rate, *ib.* 5034—The amount of capital invested in land witness considers to be about the same in the two cases, *ib.*

Reasons for forming the opinion that slave labour would be cheaper than free labour under almost any circumstances, *Colville* 5869, 5870—Witness is quite satisfied that the planters in Barbados can never compete with the slave labour of Porto Rico, *Dummett* 7651-7653—The West Indies could not, under any circumstances, compete with slave labour supplied by the slave trade, *Shand* 8251—It is very doubtful whether, if the colonists were freed from all restrictions, they could procure labour at such a cost as to enable them to go on with the cultivation in competition with slave-grown sugar, *Loxdale* 9460—Statement of the result of witness's observations on the comparative cost and merit of free labour as compared with slave labour, *Higgins* 9815 *et seq.*—Trinidad cannot at the present time compete with the foreign slave colonies *Marryat* 10361.

Even if wages could be reduced 25 per cent. with the present want of continuous labour and the high charges to which the planters are consequently exposed, sugar could not be grown in British Guiana in competition with the slave-labour sugar of Cuba, *Barkly* 10813-10817—Evidence showing that previous to emancipation the British colonies were able to grow sugar as cheaply as any other slave colonies; with fair play they could do so now, *ib.* 10837-10844—With a healthy population the difference between the competition of free labour and slave labour would be but small, but still the balance would be in favour of slavery, *Shaw* 11729-11731—The production of sugar in Brazil has not been stimulated to any great extent by the Act of 1846, *Farrer* 14133-14138—The labour in the Brazils is almost entirely slave labour, *ib.* 14492—Correspondence respecting the cultivation of slave-grown sugar in Havannah and Rio de Janeiro, *Rep.* viii. App. 75.

See also *Abandonment of Estates*, II. *Barbados*. *Beef-root Sugar*. *British Manufactures*. *Competition*. *Cost of Production*. *Cuba*, 3. *Dhobah Sugar Company*. *Distress*, 1. *Duties*, 3. *Free Labour*. *Machinery*, II. 3, i. *Prices*, II. 1. *Protective Duty*. *Slave Trade*, VI. *Wages*.

Slave Labour (Brazil). Whether the working mines is more severe than that in sugar plantations depends on the owner, *Cliffe* 1494—Slavery is not so severe in Brazil as it was in the West Indies, *ib.* 1495—Particulars as to the hours of labour in the Brazils; work performed by the slaves in the gold mines, and in searching for diamonds; mode in which performed, *ib.* 1495-1506. 1532-1534.

See also *Free Labour*. *Labour*.

SLAVE TRADE :

- I. *Generally.*
- II. *Précis of the State of our Treaties with Foreign Powers, with reference to the Slave Trade.*
- III. *Evidence generally as to the Slave Trade in various Countries :*
 1. Brazil.
 2. Cuba.
 3. Porto Rico.
- IV. *Sufferings and Ill-treatment of the Slaves on board the Slavers ; Mode in which they are packed ; Filthy State in which kept ; Scarcity of Water ; Mortality amongst them.*
- V. *Increase of the Sufferings of the Slaves from our present System of Blockade.*
- VI. *Effect of the Act of 1846 in increasing the Slave Trade.*
- VII. *How far practicable to put down the Slave Trade by Blockade, or otherwise.*
- VIII. *Opinion that legalizing the Slave Trade would lessen the Cruelties exercised towards the Slaves.*
- IX. *Papers laid before the Committee.*

1. *Generally :*

Opinion of the Committee that in any system of immigration which may be adopted, great care must be taken by Her Majesty's Government to prevent any renewal of African slave dealing, *Rep.* viii. p. 4—Return of slave vessels condemned by the Courts of Mixed Commission, and by the Courts of Vice-Admiralty, from 1837 to 1847 inclusive, *Lord Palmerston* 6—Memorandum drawn up by witness in 1844, on the suppression of the slave trade; the principles suggested therein were adopted by Her Majesty's Government, *Denman* 1644, 1645—The only remedy that witness would recommend for the depressed state of our West India colonies would be the abolition of the slave trade, *ib.* 1649—If one-third of the money which has been laid out against the slave trade had been employed in the improvement of the West Indies, those colonies would have produced sugar at a price which would have put an end to the slave trade, *Innes* 13405-13411.

II. *Précis of the State of our Treaties with Foreign Powers, with reference to the Slave Trade :*

There are three classes of treaties which this country has entered into with foreign powers, for the purpose of suppressing the slave trade, *Lord Palmerston* 1—The first class gives to each party the mutual right of search of merchant vessels of the other party, within certain geographical limits, *ib.*—Right of detention of vessels which these treaties also give, *ib.*—This class of treaties constitutes mixed courts, composed of commissioners of each nation, for the adjudication of captured vessels, *ib.*—The second class also gives a mutual right of search, and a similar right of detention, *ib.*—But by this class a captured vessel is handed over to the tribunals of the country under whose flag she has been captured, instead of being tried by a Mixed Court of Commission, *ib.*—The third class of treaties consists of two, the treaty we have with France and the one we have with the United States, *ib.*—Under these treaties no right of search is granted, *ib.*—But each party engages to maintain a certain force upon the coast of Africa, to watch its own merchant flag, and prevent vessels under that flag being engaged in the slave trade, *ib.*

* Degree of good faith with which the different governments, and the officers of the governments of Brazil, and of that of Spain, in Cuba, and Porto Rico, have carried out the treaties with this country, *Lord Palmerston* 11-21—Difficulties in the way of our making treaties with Brazil for the suppression of the slave trade; the feeling of the people is entirely in favour of the trade, *Denman* 1698-1705—Benefit which would arise from entering into treaties with the chief of Ambriz, and other chiefs, and giving them subsidies for their forbidding slave trading, and encouraging the British merchants to come and take their people, *Matson* 7170-7179—How far there is any security for the observance of treaties by the native chiefs, *ib.* 7198, 7199—Indisposition of the chiefs at the present time to enter into treaties, *ib.* 7276-7280—Evidence as to the slave trade in Cuba, and opinion that it is a violation of the existing treaties between this country and Spain, *Geddes* 9049-9052—The best mode of putting down the slave trade would be by making treaties with the chiefs to put it down in their own possessions; this might probably be done by giving them a subsidy, but would be difficult so long as the temptation is so great, *McCrae* 13360-13371.

III. *Evidence generally as to the Slave Trade in various Countries :*

1. Brazil :

Witness has no doubt that the "Antelope" steamer, built at Liverpool, and sent to Rio as a packet ship, will be sold for the slave trade, *Cliffe* 1445-1451—So far as they have the

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SLAVE TRADE—continued.

III. Evidence generally as to the Slave Trade in various Countries—continued. *

1. Brazil—continued.

the means, the Brazilians universally engage in slave operations, *Cliffe* 1460, 1461—History of the progress of the slave trade since 1830, *ib.* 1462 *et seq.*—Evidence as to the increase and decrease in the trade at different periods; variation in the price of slaves; age at which the slaves are purchased, &c., *ib.* 1462-1475. 1480-1492. 1607-1610—On account of the British cruisers off the coast of Brazil, the slave trade was at the lowest pitch in 1844, *ib.* 1474, 1475. 1560-1566—It was then discovered that the British cruisers were not so effectual as the slave dealers supposed them to be, *ib.* 1475. 1560-1566—And they were also taken off the coast of Brazil and sent to Sierra Leone, *ib.* —The trade after this was carried on much more extensively, *ib.* 1476. 1560-1566.

Evidence showing that, generally speaking, the slaves are well treated; it is to the interest of the owners to treat them well; general good behaviour and happy condition of the slaves, *Cliffe* 1495. 1507-1510—Penal laws exist in the Brazils against the slave trade, *ib.* 1528—Further evidence as to the price of slaves; difficulty of stating the actual price at the present time, *ib.* 1529-1531—There is no trade so profitable under the sun at the present time as the African slave trade, *ib.* 1539—Evidence as to the employment of slaves by English companies; there is one company that buys them; they have not generally bought them since the passing of the 2 & 3 Vict. *ib.* 1551-1559—The Brazilian Government wink at the slave trade altogether; public opinion in Brazil is favourable to it; it is not thought dishonourable to be connected with it, *ib.* 1568-1574.

Steamers have been engaged in the trade off and on for some years, *Cliffe* 1579—Formerly the value of the slaves depended on the part of the coast from which they came; this is not the case now, *ib.* 1595-1598—They prefer carrying their slaves to the Brazils in boats of the smallest dimensions, *Matson* 7081-7087—Average price of slaves in the Brazils, *Farrer* 14175, 14176—Evidence generally relative to the importation of slaves into the Brazils, and as to the trading in slaves there, *ib.* 14177-14190. 14234-14239. 14243, 14244—The interference of this country in the slave trade has had the reverse effect of extinguishing it as regards Brazil, *ib.* 14218-14223.

2. Cuba:

There is no doubt the slave trade is carried on in Cuba, *Lord Howard de Walden* 4581—Evidence as to the cruel usage of the slaves in Cuba, and the severe labour to which they are subjected, *Higgins* 9906-9920—Encouragement given to the slave trade in Cuba, *Shaw* 11554-11560—The price of slaves has not risen very materially within the last three or four years, *Harbottle* 15412—Evidence relative to the practice in Cuba of letting out slaves for hire, *ib.* 15413-15426. 15469-15473—Description of the treatment of the slaves in Cuba, *ib.* 15453-15463. 15474-15482. 15726-15737.

3. Porto Rico:

Very few slaves have been imported lately, *Shaw* 11542-11546—Further evidence as to slave dealing in Porto Rico, *ib.* 11620-11625.

IV. Sufferings and Ill-treatment of the Slaves on board the Slavers; Mode in which they are packed; Filthy State in which kept; Scarcity of Water; Mortality amongst them:

Estimate of the number of slaves that have been imported into Brazil in 1847, *Cliffe* 1413, 1414. 1438, 1439—A great number die after landing and before sale from extreme ill-treatment, *ib.* 1415—And from the putrid gases in the holds of the small vessels, arising from the close manner in which they are packed, *ib.*—Some of them drink a great deal of water, if they can get it, and mostly die in three or four hours afterwards, *ib.*—Largest mortality witness has ever known occur, *ib.* 1416-1418—The greatest evil to which they are subject is the scarcity of water in the present run of slavers, *ib.* 1418-1421.

Description of the mode in which the slaves are packed in the holds of the slave vessels; filthy state in which they are kept; height between the decks, *Cliffe* 1424-1429. 1457-1459—Average duration of the voyage from the coast of Africa to Brazil, *ib.* 1430, 1431—The effect of the want of water is too horrible to describe; no person can have an idea of it without feeling it, *ib.* 1431—The slavers are very subject, on leaving the coast of Africa, to be caught in a calm; it is then the suffering of the negro commences, *ib.* 1440, 1441—Witness has known one slaver land 1,750 slaves; this vessel has already made three voyages, and was ready to start again last year when witness left Brazil; she is a very fine craft, *ib.* 1442-1444—Proportion of slaves that would be landed in a condition to stand upright after a quick and fortunate voyage, previous to 1830, *ib.* 1452, 1453.

Before 1830, the proportion of loss was smaller than at present, except in cases where the small-pox got on board, *Cliffe* 1454—Wretched condition in which the slaves are landed at the present time, *ib.* 1455-1459—The mortality among the slaves in the

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SLAVE TRADE—continued.

IV. *Sufferings and Ill-treatment of the Slaves on board the Slavers*—continued.

Brazils was formerly not so great as in the West Indies, *Cliffe* 1537, 1538—Evidence detailing the mode in which the slaves are procured; price at which they are bought, *Matson* 7096-7113—Evidence as to the mode in which the slaves are packed in the slavers; mortality amongst them, *ib.* 7131-7147—In some instances the slaves who are refused by the slave dealers are massacred; witness was in the River Nun, some years ago, when 500 were knocked on the head on the beach, *ib.* 7194, 7196, 7221-7227—Horrible manner in which the slaves are packed on board the slavers; filthy state in which they are kept; bad quality of the water; mortality resulting therefrom, *M'Crae* 13294-13302, 13309-13325.

V. *Increase of the Sufferings of the Slaves by our present System of Blockade :*

The stint of water arises from the activity of the British cruisers, who would seize any vessel if she were loaded with a certain number of water casks, *Cliffe* 1422, 1423—The slaves are not now landed in so healthy a condition, owing to the British cruisers being on the coast; way in which this arises, *ib.* 1537, 1538—Further evidence to show that more humanity was observed in the slavers previous to the endeavours of the British Government to blockade the coast of Brazil than is now shown, *ib.* 1575-1578, 1593, 1594—The consequence of the British blockade and preventive service is very much to increase the privations to which the slaves are put, *Matson* 7088-7090—The privations of the slaves are much aggravated by the severe blockade service, *M'Crae* 13240-13243.

VI. *Effect of the Act of 1846 in increasing the Slave Trade :*

Great increase in the slave trade in the last few years; how far this may be attributed to the increase of sugar cultivation, *Cliffe* 1520-1523—The fall in the price of slaves has led to an extended sugar cultivation, *ib.* 1567—The increased demand for sugar has increased the demand for slaves, *ib.* 1580-1583—Reference to the fact of the slave trade having broken out on a part of the coast near witness's station, between the Kroo Coast and Cape Palmas, where it had not existed before for 15 or 16 years, *Denman* 1639—This may be attributed to proper principles not having been acted upon by the squadron on the coast, *ib.* 1640—And also partly to the equalization of the sugar duties by the Act of 1846, *ib.* 1640, 1673, 1691-1693.

The change in the laws of this country, admitting slave-grown sugar, has been one cause of very much stimulating the slave trade, *Matson* 7091-7095—If England were to return to the old policy of excluding slave-grown sugar, it would be a great check to the trade, *ib.* 7168, 7169—There is no moral doubt that the slave trade has increased since the Act of 1846, *Shaw* 11572, 11572*—Reference to various documents which have been laid before Parliament in support of this assertion, *ib.*—Further evidence to show that the slave trade has increased in Cuba since the passing of the Act of 1846, *ib.* 11679-11708—The slave trade has been very much stimulated in the last two years by the alteration in the laws of this country, *M'Crae* 13372—Slavery has increased since the Act of 1846, *Hawes* 16575-16577.

VII. *How far practicable to put down the Slave Trade by Blockade or otherwise :*

Absolute necessity for establishing cruisers near the coast of Cuba and Brazil instead of on the African coast, *Lord Palmerston* 1-4—Force which would be necessary effectually to blockade the coast of Brazil, *ib.* 5—No cruising either on the west coast of Africa or on the coast of Brazil will put down the slave trade, *Cliffe* 1606—The only plan to put a stop to the slave trade would be to block up the ports of exportation unremittingly, not going in chase, *Denman* 1641, 1650-1658—This, followed up by the destruction of the barracoons by treaty with the native chiefs, would entirely eradicate the trade, *ib.* 1642-1644, 1653-1658.

The abolition of the slave trade is perfectly practicable; detail of witness's plan for carrying it out, *Denman* 1649-1658—Though it might be a temporary loss to the native chiefs, the suppression of the slave trade would be the greatest possible benefit eventually to all classes in Africa, *ib.* 1658—On those parts of the coast where the slave trade has been checked, legitimate trade has sprung up, *ib.* 1659-1664—Instance of the coast near the River Bonny where a great trade in palm oil has sprung up, *ib.* 1662—The present force on the coast is amply sufficient to carry out witness's plan, *ib.* 1665-1672, 1674-1676—The same force might be maintained at a much smaller expense; the steamers are too large and their speed is not sufficient; number of steamers on the coast, *ib.* 1667, 1668.

Under the impression that it would be more healthy, the squadron has been moved further from the coast, *Denman* 1672—The present increase of the slave trade may be attributed partly to this cause, *ib.* 1673—Further expression of the opinion that the slave trade may be easily put down for the present, and ultimately annihilated, *ib.* 1687-1690, 1695-1697—Great difficulties in the way of our blockading the coast of Brazil, *Denman*

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Denman 1701-1705—There are various circumstances which point to the coast of Africa as the proper place for such proceedings, *ib.* 1701-1705.

Way in which the difficulties of putting down the slave trade have increased of late years; extent to which witness had succeeded at one time in putting it down, in 1842, *Matson* 7068-7076—How far, under present circumstances, the state of things might be restored to what it was in 1842, *ib.* 7077—It might of course be done by force, but the force required would be almost double what would have been necessary then, *ib.* 7077-7080—Number of vessels now employed, *ib.* 7078, 7089—If the blockade service on the coast of Africa were done away with, no effectual blockade could be carried on on the coast of Brazil, *ib.* 7148-7154.

Doubts as to whether it would be better to blockade the coast of Africa or the coast of Brazil; whichever is done should be done effectually, and then the blockade of one would be sufficient, *Matson* 7200-7220—Further evidence to show that the present squadron on the coast of Africa is not sufficient to suppress the slave trade, *ib.* 7250, 7251. 7255-7274—It is witness's opinion, with regard both to economy and efficiency, it would be desirable rather to increase the amount of sailing vessels employed on the coast of Africa than the amount of steam vessels, *ib.* 7275, 7276. 7294, *et seq.*—It would be almost an impossibility to blockade the coast of Africa, so as to entirely put down the slave trade, *M'Crae* 13339-13344. 13356, 13357—The present attempt at a blockade of the coast of Africa has not done much good in suppressing the slave trade, and has certainly increased the sufferings of the slave, *ib.* 13358, 13359.

VIII. *Opinion that legalizing the Slave Trade would lessen the Cruelties exercised towards the Slaves:*

Cruelty would be lessened by the British Government legalizing the slave trade, *Cliffe* 1515—A trade in gold mines, and other advantages, might be got by legalizing the slave trade, and then sending the slaves back after they have been eight or ten years in the Brazils before they have forgotten their African habits, *ib.*—They would then form valuable communities, *ib.*—Reasons why, if the trade were thrown open and our cruisers withdrawn, it would not be so profitable, *ib.* 1540-1550.

IX. *Papers laid before the Committee:*

Note from Mr. J. Parker, M. P., to Lord George Bentinck, M. P., enclosing a return of expenses connected with measures for the abolition of the slave trade, *Rep.* viii. *App.* 10—Return showing the total expenses, direct and indirect, growing out of the suppression of the slave trade, including all military and civil establishments on the coast of Africa or elsewhere connected with the abolition of the slave trade, in the years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847, *ib.* 11—Estimate of the actual cost of maintaining twenty-six ships of war on the coast of Africa, of the smallest calibre calculated for such a service, *ib.* 19.

See also *African Immigrants*, 3. *America*. *Barracoons*. *Brazil*, 1. *Cuba*, 1. "Cygnets" *Cruiser*. *Emancipados*. *Free Labour*, 4. * *Immigration*, IV. 1. *Kroomen*. *Liberated Africans*. *Owners of Slaves*. *Santa Cruz*. *Spain*.

Slave Vessels. If West India vessels were to go to Africa to purchase labourers with a greater equipment, with regard to water, than was necessary for the ship's crew, they would, under the existing treaties, be liable to seizure, *Denman* 1624—The way in which the fact of so small a number of loaded ships being captured may be accounted for is, that they are very careful in shipping, unless they know that the coast is clear of a cruiser, *M'Crae* 13236-13239. 13303-13308.

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Generally.—Heads of a plan for the abolition of negro slavery, and for the securing the continued cultivation of the estates by the manumitted slaves, *Rep.* iv. *App.* 138-172.

Cuba.—Miserable condition of the slaves on the sugar plantations in Cuba; number of hours they work daily; way in which treated, *Lord Howard de Walden* 4572-4579—The worst treated are the emancipados, or those slaves who have been captured by our cruisers and liberated by the sentence of the Slave Trade Commission, *ib.* 4579—They ought to have been apprenticed to humane masters during the time necessary to qualify them to become peasants and learn the language of the island, *ib.*—The abandonment of slavery would be considered in Cuba as tantamount to the destruction of produce in the island, *Harbottle* 15717-15721.

Java.—There is not a shadow of slavery existing in Java; it is really free labour; way in which the change has been effected, *Dennison* 4756-4759—The sort of obligation the natives are under to maintain the cultivation of sugar is not considered by them as a hardship, *ib.* 4760-4763—There are still domestic slaves in the island, *ib.* 4764-4768—But the slave trade is entirely abolished; there is very little secret slave trade, *ib.* 4769-4771—The labour in Java is in a great degree forced labour; but at the same time the labourers are in a very good state, and by no means oppressed, *Miles* 13666.

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Porto Rico.—Plan practised in Porto Rico of letting out slaves; this is also practised in Cuba and Santa Cruz, *Shaw* 11602-11606. 11627-11636. 11641-11643.

Santa Cruz.—There is no chance of slavery in Santa Cruz being got rid of before 1858, *Shaw* 11592-11594.

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Slaves. The ordinary race of Africans that are kidnapped for slaves are very low in intellect, *M'Crae* 13209-13216—They are, generally speaking, not very athletic; the habits of the women are better than those of the men, and they are more industrious; the men are very indolent, *ib.* 13217-13228—Statement of the price of slaves of the class called "prædial attached" in the colony of British Guiana, from the Returns made for the purpose of assessing compensation under the Emancipation Act, *Rep. v. App.* 265.

See also *Emancipados*.

Soil. A rich soil, and abundance of it, is the most essential element for the production of sugar, *Crawford* 13030.

See also *Cuba*, 2. *Cultivation of Sugar*, I. *Demerara*. *Mauritius*, 2.

Spain. Faith with which Spain has carried out her treaties with this country relative to the slave trade, *Lord Palmerston* 11-21—Former evasion by Spain of the treaty as regards the slave trade in Cuba; the treaty is now more strictly carried out, *ib.* 11.

Spanish Colonies. See *Brazil*. *Cost of Production*, III. 5. *Cuba*. *Havannah*. *Porto Rico*.

Spirit Licences. Every wholesale dealer in British spirits is compelled to take out a licence, whether he acts as merchant, broker, or otherwise, *Wood* 15037-15043—A merchant receiving a consignment of brandy from France has, however, the privilege of selling it as he would any other merchantable commodity, without taking out a licence, *ib.* 15043.

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Spirit Trade. Opinion that a very large export trade of British spirits is missed at the present time by this country, *Currie* 8779-8786.

Spirits. How far practically there have been any improvements carried out in the manufacture of spirits since the Act of 1825, *Currie* 8555—Detail of the restrictions in the way of impediments to the manufacture of spirits; first, as to the right of excise officers to enter upon the premises, *ib.* 8560-8562—Secondly, as to the prohibition of the choice of materials, *ib.* 8562—In 1846-47 the distillers were obliged to raise the price of their spirits in consequence of the high price of corn, *ib.* 8629-8631—Return of the amount of British spirits and rum brought into consumption in the year 1821 and in the year 1845, *ib.* 8691-8693—Even if it should appear from this Return that rum had increased only six per cent. while British spirits have increased 117 per cent., it is no evidence that the differential taxation has not been unavailing as far as regards protection to the English distiller, *ib.* 8694-8708.

Number of gallons of malt spirits consumed in the United Kingdom in the year ending 5 January 1847, and amount of duty paid upon the spirits, including the duty on the malt, *Gray* 9222—There is a small import duty on British spirits imported into the West Indies; there is also a very high duty on rum consumed in the colony of British Guiana, *Barkly* 11024-11030. 11065-11067—Statement of the cost of manufacturing spirits for the distilling period, ended 5 February 1848, including the cost of manufacturing the malt, furnished by Patrick Chambers, distiller at Wishaw, *Wood's Ev., Rep. vi. p.* 83—The distillers, and especially the Irish and Scotch, have made it a prominent subject of complaint that great difficulties exist in the intercourse of plain spirits, *Wood* 14982. 15138-15144—The question is merely one of revenue, and measures are in preparation which will go a very great way to remove many of the complaints of the Scotch and Irish distillers, *ib.* 14982, 14983—Account of the number of proof gallons of spirits imported into Ireland from Scotland, and into Scotland from Ireland, in the five years 1843 to 1847, distinguishing the materials from which made, *Wood's Ev., Rep. vi. p.* 120—Return for the ten years, 1838 to 1847, of the whole trade in British spirits, showing that malt spirit and corn spirits are pretty well upon an equality, as far as competition goes in this country, *Wood* 15166-15169.

The importation of Scotch and Irish spirits into the London market is not so plentiful by any means as it used to be, *Betts* 15216. 15256-15267—This short supply may be attributed to three distinct regulations and clauses in the Act of Parliament, that give privileges, particularly to the English, that are denied to the Irish and Scotch, *ib.* 15217. 15219. 15231. 15241, 15242. 15268—Nature of these respective clauses, *ib.* 15218 *et seq.* 15269 *et seq.*—The first of these is, that the English distiller is allowed over and above the Scotch to have worts on any part of his premises of any gravity, the Scotch being restricted to one vessel, *ib.* 15218. 15269-15272—Secondly, there is no efficient check on the spirits sent out by the English distiller after the charge is made in the receivers, *ib.* 15218—Witness's object would be to bring the Scotch and Irish spirits fairly into competition

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competition with those of the English distiller; this is not the case at the present time, *Betts* 15246-15248.

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Antigua.—There are no poor laws, nor is there any squatting in the island, *Tollemache* 8007-8010.

British Guiana.—Extent to which the labourers squat in Guiana, *Loxdale* 9783-9786. 9801-9803—British Guiana has not suffered much from squatting, *Liggins* 10198.

Demerara.—Great facilities for squatting in Demerara, *Naghten* 8870-8874.*

Jamaica.—Evidence as to the idle habits of the negroes and their predilection for squatting, *Price* 5128-5133—If half the estates were to go out of cultivation the other estates would not get labour cheaper; the negroes would prefer squatting and living upon their provision grounds to working, *Dickon* 6596-6615.

St. Kitt's.—There is no squatting in the island, *Greene* 6355-6357—The local Assembly of St. Kitt's, in passing laws to restrain vagrancy and squatting, has not met with co-operation on the part of the Colonial Office at home, *Pickwood* 13778.

Mauritius.—The power of squatting is one of the principal causes of the labour being inefficient, *Chapman* 3560. 3563-3570—Evils arising from the squatting upon Crown lands in the Mauritius; if this evil had been dealt with promptly and vigorously by former Governments it might have been prevented, *Hawes* 16448-16454. 16531-16540.

Trinidad.—Trinidad has suffered much from squatting; Government has done nothing effectual to suppress it, *Marryat* 10351-10359—Effectual steps might be taken by the Government, which would induce the labouring population to give their services to their employers, by preventing the squatting upon Crown lands, *ib.* 10430, 10431. 10442, 10443.

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Steam Chests. Introduction of steam chests into Cuba; how far they have answered, *Moody* 5562-5564.

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Steam Vessels. Reasons why a steam vessel is ill adapted to the transport of Africans from the coast of Africa to the West Indies; a sailing vessel would be much better, *Hall* 12300-12313. 12325-12333.

Stipendiary Magistrates. It might be beneficial if the stipendiary magistrates in the Mauritius made circuits of the different estates, so as to adjudicate each case upon the estate, provided they did it for purposes of good, *Chapman* 3660, 3661—But when they formerly made weekly visitations, their decisions were so uniformly against the planters that they spread disorder throughout the country, and this was what first upset the system of profitable production, *ib.* 3661-3666—Plan suggested with respect to stipendiary magistrates, by which justice might be properly administered, *ib.* 3667-3675—

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Straits Settlements. The cultivation of sugar in the Straits settlements is of very recent date, not ranging further back than eight years, *Wray* 414.—Different tenures under which the land is held in the three Straits settlements, viz. Penang, Singapore, and Malacca, *ib.* 414, 415.—There is no other country where sugar can be grown to such advantage as in the Straits settlements, though there is a heavy freight beyond that from Cuba and Brazil, and also a double insurance, *ib.* 551-553.—This does not entirely apply to Java, as the restrictions imposed on our navigation do not affect that country, and consequently they can send their sugars cheaper than we can, *ib.* 554, 555. 560-564.

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Strikes for Wages. Explanation as to the very different effect which a strike on the part of the labourers has upon the sugar planter in the cultivation of his cane and the manufacture of sugar, and the effect of a strike, however disastrous it may be, of labourers for wages engaged in a cotton factory, or even in an iron or coal mine in England, *Higgins* 9823-9831.—Witness's belief is, that when the last packet left, the creole labourers on every estate in the colony of Demerara had struck, and were endeavouring to intimidate the Coolies and the few Africans from working also, *ib.* 9831.—The result of this will be, if it continue, that the entire outlay upon the colony will be lost, and there will be no return whatever, *ib.* 9832.—According to the latest intelligence from Berbice, not one creole has returned to his work since the strike consequent upon the first notice of the reduction of wages in December last; loss to the planters in consequence, *Barkly* 10798-10805. 10807-10812.—Witness's argument is, that it is much better to put up with this loss than incur a greater loss in the general cultivation of the estates at a higher rate of wages, *ib.* 10805, 10806.

Sugar. Document delivered in, being an annual circular of a sugar-broker, satisfactorily elucidating the subject of East India, West India, and Mauritius sugar, *Bagshaw* 284.—Fifteen maunds of goor is a fair average produce per acre; this is equal to 600 lbs. of muscovado sugar refined by the Calcutta refiners; 10 maunds is nearer the general average of the country, *Wray* 351, 352. 359-364.—The money-produce of an acre, at the rate of 15 maunds, is about 4*l.* 10*s.* to the cultivator, which is but a scanty return for his labour, time, and trouble, *ib.* 352. 359-364.—Account of the quantity of foreign unrefined sugar entered for home consumption in the United Kingdom in the year 1847, *Rep.* ii. *App.* 76.

Sugar Factories (Mauritius). The sugar factories in the Mauritius are of a comparatively modern date, *Sir G. Larpent* 4019, 4020.

Sugar Market. Statement of the operation upon the sugar market of the various changes in the laws which have taken place since 1844, *Scott* 5259.—There is no doubt that the sugar market is in a very depressed condition in this country, owing to various causes; how far there is likely to be any rise in prices, bearing in mind that there is the 6*s.* differential protection to come off, *Wolley* 11463-11466.—See also *Sale of Sugars*.

Sugar Ships. Witness does not put any great faith in the plan which has been suggested of constructing ships purposely for the sugar trade, with iron tanks, so that the molasses might be brought home without waste, *Cruikshank* 10616-10624.

Sugar Trade. It is a question whether the reduction of price has been beneficial to the persons engaged in the sugar trade in this country, *Scott* 5360-5375. 5425, 5426.

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